



Engraved by E. H. B. H.

ESKIMAU BUILDING A SNOW HUT.

Drawn by J. H. B. H.



Designed by E. H. R. Butler

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Drawn by Capt. J. W. N.

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JOURNALS
OF THE
FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD VOYAGES
FOR THE DISCOVERY OF
A NORTH-WEST PASSAGE
FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE PACIFIC,
In 1819-20-21-22-23-24-25,
IN HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS
HECLA, GRIPER AND FURY,
UNDER THE ORDERS OF
CAPT. W. E. PARRY, R.N. F.R.S.
AND COMMANDER OF THE EXPEDITION.

FIVE VOLUMES.
WITH PLATES.
VOL. IV.

LONDON :
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.
MDCCCXXVIII.

**LONDON: PRINTED BY C. ROWORTH,
BELL YARD, TEMPLE BAR.**

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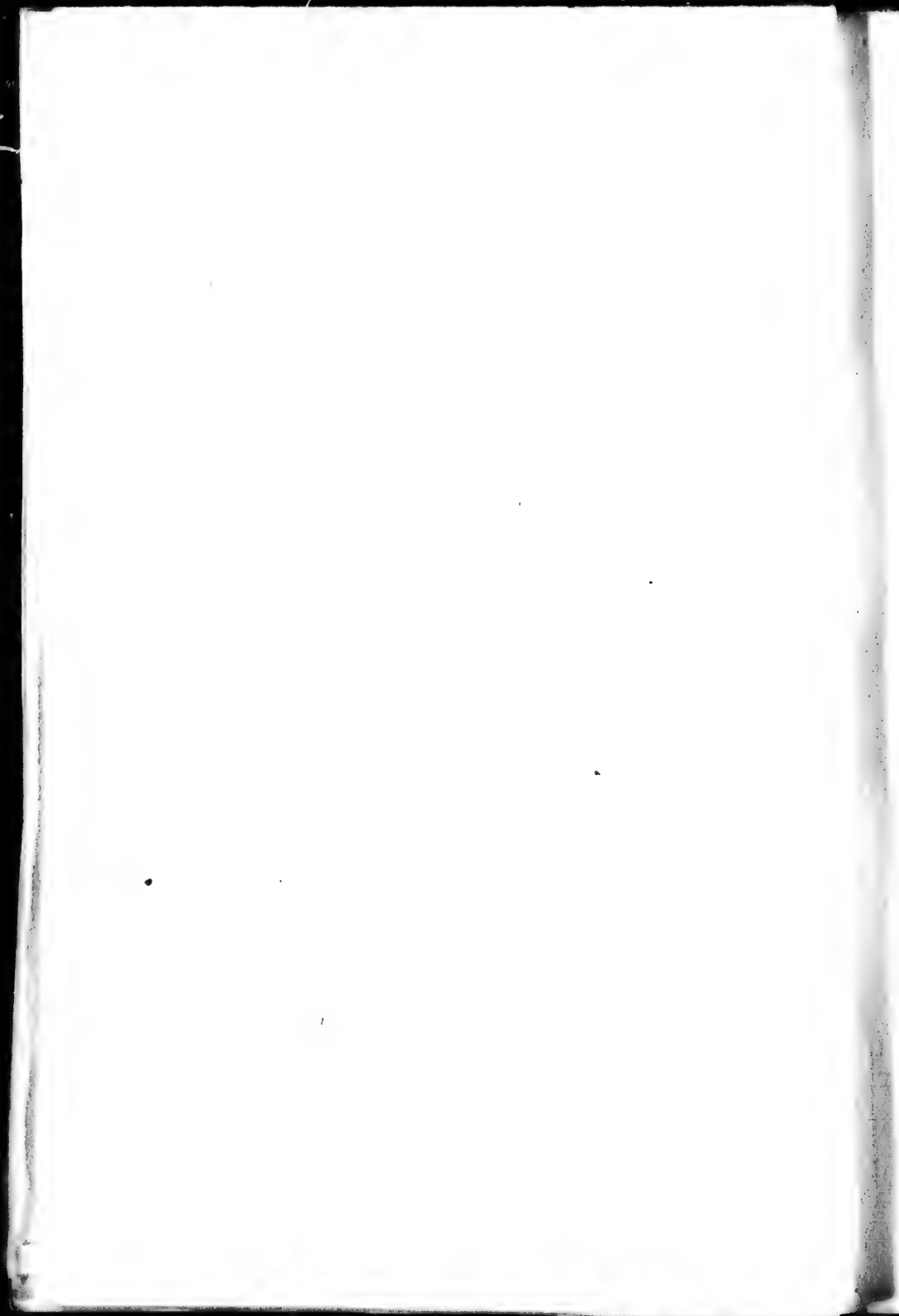
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CHAPTER IX.

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Commence cutting a canal through the ice for liberating the ships—Illness and decease of John Reid and William Souther—Breaking up of the ice in the bay—Account of Winter Island—Abstract of observations made there.

ON the morning of the 3d, at six A.M. both the ships' companies, under their respective officers, were set to work upon the ice. A line was accurately marked out from each of the Fury's quarters, where they were fifty feet apart, diverging to two

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hundred and fifty at the edge of the floe, the latter being distant from the ships two thousand and twenty feet, or just one third of a nautical mile. It was proposed to make a cut through the ice with the saws, along the two lines thus marked out, and then a transverse section here and there, the divergency of the sides being intended to facilitate the removal of the pieces thus detached, by first pulling them out with strong purchases, and then floating them down the canal to the sea without. Nothing could exceed the alacrity with which this laborious work was undertaken, and continued daily from six in the morning till eight at night, with the intermission only of meal-times: nor could any thing be more lively and interesting than the scene which now presented itself to an observer on the south-east point. The day was beautifully clear, the sea open as far as the eye could stretch to the northward, and the "busy hum" of our people's voices could at times be heard mingling with the cheerful though fantastic songs with which

the Greenland sailors are accustomed at once to beguile their labour, and to keep the necessary time in the action of sawing the ice. The whole prospect, together with the hopes and associations excited by it, was to persons cooped up as we had been, exhilarating beyond conception.

In the course of the first week we had completed the two side cuts, and also two shorter ones in the space between the ships; making in all a length of two thousand three hundred feet on each side of the intended canal, the thickness of the ice being in general four feet, but in one or two places (where the junction of the sea-ice with the bay-floe occasioned some squeezing) above ten feet and a half, scarcely allowing our longest saws to work. Laborious as this part of the operation had been, we soon found it likely to prove the least troublesome of the whole; for on endeavouring to pull out the pieces in the manner at first intended, every effort failed, till at length we were reduced to the necessity of cutting

each block diagonally before it could be moved from its place. After a week's experience, we also learned that much time had been lost in completing the whole of the lateral cuts at once; for these, partly from frost, and partly by the closing together of the sides of the canal, all required sawing a second and in some places even a third time. It was surprising also to see how powerful a resistance was occasioned by the "sludge" produced in sawing, or as the sailors called it, the "saw-dust," continuing in the cut and appearing to act like oil interposed between two plates of glass, in keeping the masses united. In some cases also, a saw was squeezed so tight by the pressure of the ice in the cut, that it became necessary to enter a second in order to release it, by sawing out a circular plug of ice completely round it. Fatiguing as this work proved to the men, I directed it to be continued to-day, the sea remaining so open on the outside as to give every encouragement to our exertions.

While we were thus making trial of what

art could effect towards our release, nature seemed to be more than usually tardy in rendering her assistance. The snow was still leaving the land by very slow degrees, and some small rain fell for a short time on the 7th, but the mean temperature of the twenty-four hours seldom rose above the freezing point. So small indeed was the quantity of water now to be obtained on shore, that being apprehensive of actually going to sea without any in the holds, each ship commenced melting snow in her coppers for filling the tanks, the crews being necessarily put on an allowance till this was somewhat advanced. The first flower of the *saxifraga oppositifolia* was brought on board as a matter of curiosity by our botanists, on the 9th, or *one day later* than it made its appearance at Melville Island in 1820.

One of our people, in walking over the island, met with a swan's nest, which Captain Lyon went out to see and made a drawing of it. It was built of moss-peat, being no less than five feet ten inches in length, four feet nine inches wide, and two

feet deep. The hole of entrance in the top was eighteen inches wide. Two eggs, each weighing about eight ounces, were found in the nest, in which the old birds were also sitting at first, but too wild to be approached. The eggs are of a cream or brownish white colour, in some parts a little clouded by a darker tinge. The female subsequently laid a third egg, and soon afterwards both birds appeared to have wholly deserted the nest.

In the second week our progress with the canal had been considerable, it being now completed within two hundred yards of the Fury's stern. As the men had continued this cold and wet work without intermission for thirteen days together, they were now allowed a half holiday, of which they began to stand in need. Several patients, as might have been expected, had been added to the sick lists of both ships, but by timely and skilful attention the complaints had hitherto been overcome. The opening we had already made in the ice now rendered it so much weaker, and consequently so much more liable to disruption than before,

that I considered it prudent to remove the tent, observatory, and instruments on board, as we might at any time have been forced to sea without a moment's warning. Mr. Fisher, therefore, having completed the desired observations, every thing was re-embarked except the transit instrument and meridian mark, these being left to the last for continuing the determination of the rates of the chronometers. Among the things now brought on board were the garden frames, from which about four pounds of wretched *pea-leaves*, and mustard and cress, had been produced in each garden, by dint of nine weeks' labour and attention.

At the conclusion of the day's labour on the 19th, we had every prospect of getting to sea in forty-eight hours more; but early on the following morning, when the ebb, or north-easterly tide had made, and was assisted by a breeze from the southward, the whole body of sea-ice came forcibly in contact with the bay-floe; which was now so weakened by our cutting, as to split the whole way from the edge up to the Hecla's

stern, a little to the westward of the canal, the latter being almost immediately closed with a considerable crush, but without affecting the ships which lay beyond it. The closing of our artificial canal had the effect of partially opening a natural one at the place where the ice had just been detached; but as this was incomplete, coming gradually up to a point astern of the Hecla, we were at a loss to know on which of the two our labour would best be employed. An attempt was first made by four strong purchases, stretched from side to side across the new crack, to pull the parts together again, and thus to leave our original canal *in statu quo*. All our power however being insufficient to accomplish this, we commenced with the saws upon the upper part of the crack, with the intention of widening it sufficiently for the passage of the ships. In this work we had made considerable progress when, towards evening, it was perceived that *this* was now closing, and our former canal re-opening by the action of the wind and tide. Relinquishing our last

attempt, therefore, we lost no time in floating some heavy pieces of ice into the canal, to serve as wedges for keeping the sides apart, in case of any fresh pressure from without again disposing them to close.

The fog still continued and some heavy rain fell at night, both of which made a striking alteration in the appearance of the land and ice. The snow which was before hard enough to bear a man in walking, now allowed him to sink almost to the middle; and after this time the water was very abundant on shore, occurring in numerous small streams and ponds in almost every part.

At two A.M. on the 21st, the piece of the floe which formed the separation between the two canals drifted bodily outwards, as far as the rocks at the mouth of the bay and the ice that lay upon them would permit, taking with it a heavy-grounded mass that lay near the Hecla, and on which it had before been turning as on a pile or pivot: shortly after a second mass on the eastern side of the canal broke off, the separation taking place upon the line where the ice had

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been weakened by the sand we had laid upon it. Our work was now at an end, and we had only to wait for a northerly or westerly wind to release us from our present "besetment," for in fact it was now nothing more. Directions were therefore given for closely watching the motion of the ice, both from the ships as well as by regular visits to the shore, at the end of every watch.

It now becomes my painful duty to turn from these busy occupations, where animation, cheerfulness, and hope prevailed, to the sad and solemn scenes of sickness and death; for, with both of these did it please the Almighty to visit us at this period! William Souter, quarter-master of the *Fury*, who, in the early part of this week, had complained of a slight sickness at the stomach, and having been quite relieved was in consequence discharged to duty, was again, on the morning of the 21st, affected in a similar manner while on deck. Mr. Ross, observing that he was unwell, desired him to go below, to which at first Souter objected, saying that it would soon go off;

but Mr. Ross very properly, in compliance with my general orders on this head, insisted on his going to Mr. Skeoch. He was soon relieved by the treatment which Mr. Edwards adopted, and continued well till the night of the 22d, when some dangerous symptoms having appeared and continued for several hours, Mr. Fisher, of the Hecla, was on the following day called in on a consultation. In the evening of the 23d, the symptoms once more appeared to assume a less threatening aspect, and a hope was indulged that no inflammation in the bowels had yet taken place, which there had before been great reason to apprehend. As the ship was ready for sea, and no work of any consequence remained to be done, every thing was kept as quiet as possible on board, that the patient might suffer no disturbance. On the 24th, Souter's alarming symptoms had so much subsided, that increasing hopes were entertained of his continuing to do well. These flattering appearances, however, received a sudden check about noon on the 25th, after which time he began

rapidly, though gradually, to droop, and between six and seven in the evening breathed his last.

The impossibility of removing Souter from the sick bay, after the last alarming change took place, rendered his death, or rather the convulsive struggles which for some hours preceded that event, a dreadful trial to poor Reid, whose state had for some time past been scarcely better, the difficulty in his breathing having increased to a most distressing degree. Worn out as he was by bodily suffering and extreme debility, it is probable that the depression of spirits occasioned by Souter's death served to hasten his own dissolution, which took place about the same hour the following evening. The slow degrees by which Reid's death had been long approaching, had served in some measure to prepare his mind for that awful event; though, like other consumptive persons, he would sometimes entertain very sanguine hopes of his recovery, and this he continued to do till

about the time of Souter's illness. When Souter was dying, Reid remarked that he should not be long after him; and on the 26th, when Mr. Fisher had attended and prayed with him, he said that he should go at one bell, (half-past six) and then enumerated all his clothes to one of the men, who, at his request, wrote them down for him. After four o'clock he did not speak, and gradually sinking expired at the time he had mentioned.

On the 28th, the remains of our deceased shipmates were committed to the earth, with every solemnity that so mournful an occasion demanded. They were interred in one grave, on a rising ground a few hundred yards from the sea to the north-eastward of the ships. A handsome tomb of stone and mortar was built over the spot, having, at one end, a stone let in, with the usual information engraved on it. The sides were plastered with a kind of viscous clay found in one of the ponds, and the top covered with tufts of the purple saxifrage.

The duties of the ships now permitting it, Captain Lyon employed his men in building a similar tomb over the grave of Pringle.

Scarcely had these melancholy duties been performed when the wind, which had been stationary at south for several hours, began to veer a little to the westward, and the weather gradually to clear up; and, by six P.M., a fresh breeze blew from the W.S.W., so that we had now every reason to expect an almost immediate opening of the ice. It is remarkable, that previous to this change the winds had been almost constantly between the S.E. and E.N.E. for ten days; a circumstance we had never before experienced in these seas, and which certainly produced more melting than a period of two months would have done with the wind to the northward and westward. The alteration which the surface of the land had undergone in this interval is indeed almost inconceivable, except to those who have experienced the rapidity with which such changes do take place, when once they fairly begin in these regions. The whole aspect of the island was so tho-

roughly metamorphosed, in consequence of the disappearance of the snow, that the very spots on which we had been in the frequent habit of walking for the last nine months, could now scarcely be recognised ; and I believe not one among us, if removed from Winter Island in May and brought back in July, would, from the mere aspect of the land, have very easily discovered the scene of our winter's rambles.

Previously to leaving our present winter-quarters, where we had now nearly completed our ninth month, I shall offer a few remarks on the extent and geographical position of Winter Island, and on such of its natural productions as I have not had an opportunity of mentioning in the preceding part of this narrative.

Winter Island is ten miles and a half in length from N.W. b. N. to S.E. b. S., and its average breadth from eight to ten miles. It is what seamen call rather low land ; the height of the S.E. point, which I named CAPE FISHER, out of respect to our chaplain and astronomer, being seventy-six feet,

and none of the hills above three times that height. The outline of the land is smooth, and in the summer, when free from snow, presents a brown appearance. Several miles of the north-west end of the island are so low and level, that, when the snow lay thick upon it, our travellers could only distinguish it from the sea by the absence of hummocks of ice.

The basis of the island is gneiss-rock, much of which is of a grey colour, but in many places also the feldspar is so predominant as to give a bright red appearance to the rocks, especially about Cape Fisher, where also some broad veins of quartz are seen intersecting the gneiss; and both this and the feldspar are very commonly accompanied by a green substance, which we took to be pistacite, and which usually occurs as a thin lamina adhering strongly to the others. In many specimens these three are united, the feldspar and quartz displaying tolerably perfect crystals. In some of the gneiss small red garnets are abundant, as also in mica-slate. In lumps of granite,

which are found detached upon the surface, the mica sometimes occurs in white plates, and in other specimens is of a dirty brown colour. There are several varieties of mica-slate, and some of these have a brilliant metallic appearance like silver; those which are most so, crumble very easily to pieces. The most common stone next to those already mentioned is lime, which is principally schistose and of a white colour. Many pieces of this substance on being broken present impressions of fossil-shells, and some have also brown waved lines running quite through them. Nodules of flint occur in some masses of lime, but they are not common. Iron pyrites is found in large lumps of black stone, tinged externally with the oxide of iron; it is here and there met with in small perfect cubes.

CHAPTER X.

Departure from Winter Island—Meet with some Esquimaux travelling to the northward—Obstructions and danger from the ice and tides—Discovery of the Barrow River, and its full—Favourable passage to the northward—Arrival off the strait of the Fury and Hecla—Progress opposed by a fixed barrier of ice—Communicate with the natives of Igloolik—Unsuccessful attempts to get between the ice and the land—Land upon the Calthorpe Islands—The Fury drifted by the ice between two islands—Account of a journey performed in sledges up an inlet to the westward.

THE gale, which had for some time been blowing from the northward, veered to the N.W.b.W., and increased in strength on the 1st of July, which soon began to produce the effect of drifting the ice off the land. In the course of the day, a wide lane of water was thus opened to the eastward of

the island, but the weather was too inclement to think of moving the ships. The wind continued to blow very hard during the night, with snow and sleet, but began to moderate about four A.M. on the 2d. At six o'clock, the report from the hill being favourable, and the wind and weather now also sufficiently so, we moved out of our winter's dock, which was indeed in part broken to pieces by the swell that had lately set into the bay. At seven we made sail, with a fresh breeze from W.N.W., and having cleared the rocks at the entrance of the bay, ran quickly to the northward and eastward. At noon we had Adderley's Bluff due north of us, distant eight miles, and from Captain Lyon's chart and description easily recognised Point Elizabeth beyond it. We now found that the land was completely lined with ice, extending, in most places, from two to five miles to seaward, and apparently attached to the shores as firmly as any we had seen. The part next the land, consisting of a strip one or two miles in width, was smooth and level,

and covered with numerous ponds of water, all which showed it to have been of the last winter's formation. The outer band of ice was of the "hummocky" kind, which I have shown to be produced by external pressure, or by the cementing together of a number of broken masses left in the autumn by the succeeding winter's frost. The ice in the offing was also of the latter kind, and drifting rapidly about with the tides, leaving us a navigable channel varying in width from two miles to three or four hundred yards.

Having passed Adderley's Bluff, which is much the highest land hereabouts, we soon found the ice closing in to the land-floe, and therefore made the ships fast to the latter, after a fine run of ten leagues, without any obstruction. The soundings here were extraordinary, considering the bold appearance of the land; for, at the distance of two miles from it we had only eleven fathoms, on a bottom of small stones and shells; and by the boats we found from ten to twenty-two fathoms along the edge

of the floe. On their return we were again able to get under way, and after gaining another mile or two made fast as before. Soon after the sea-ice came in upon us, but with so little force, or at least in so many broken pieces, as to do the ships no injury, though it appeared to be approaching in a very threatening manner. This motion in the ice was occasioned by the making of the flood-tide, which here, as at Winter Island, we found to come from the northward.

The ice remained close till half-past four A.M. on the 3d, when, after having sent a boat to sound, we cast off and ran along the margin of the floe. In an hour and a half we were obliged again to make fast, to allow a stream of ice to drift past us with the tide, after which we once more pushed forward for a short time. Between Cape Wilson and Point Elizabeth the land forms a considerable indentation, and is here moderately high. In the course of the forenoon, as we ran along, a man was observed standing on a hummock of ice in-shore of

us. As we concluded it to be one of our friends on their way from Winter Island, we hoisted our colours, but could not afford to heave-to. At noon we were in latitude, by observation, $66^{\circ} 50' 40''$, and longitude, by chronometers, $81^{\circ} 51' 12''$.

The closeness of the ice again obliging us to make fast, we soon after perceived a party of people with a sledge upon the land-floe, in the same direction as before. I therefore sent Mr. Bushnan with some of our men to meet them and to bring them on board, being desirous of ascertaining whereabouts, according to their geography, we now were. We found the party to consist, as we expected, of those who had taken leave of us forty days before, on their departure to the northward, and who now readily accompanied our people to the ships; leaving only Togolat's idiot-boy by the sledge, tying him to a dog and the dog to the ice. As soon as they came under the bows, they halted in a line, and, according to their former promise, gave three cheers, which salutation a few of us on the fore-

castle did not fail to return. As soon as they got on board they expressed extreme joy at seeing us again, repeated each of our names with great earnestness, and were indeed much gratified by this unexpected rencontre. Ewerat being now mounted on the plank which goes across the gunwales of our ships for conning them conveniently among the ice, explained in a very clear and pilot-like manner, that the island which we observed to lie off Cape Wilson was that marked by Iligliuk in one of her charts, (No. 1.), and there called *Awlikteewik*, pronounced by Ewerat *On-littëe-week*. On asking how many days' journey it was still to Amitioke, they all agreed in saying ten; and back to Winter Island *oonōōktoot*, (a great many,) so that we had good reason to hope we were not far from the former place. I may at once remark, however, that great caution is requisite in judging of the information these people give of the distances from one place to another, as expressed by the number of *seēniks* (sleeps) or days' journies, to which in other countries a definite value

is affixed. No two Esquimaux will give the same account in this respect, though each is equally desirous of furnishing correct information ; for besides their deficiency as arithmeticians, which renders the enumeration of ten a labour, and of fifteen almost an impossibility to many of them, each individual forms his idea of the distance according to the season of the year, and consequently the mode of travelling in which his own journey has been performed. Instances of this kind will be observed in the charts of the Esquimaux, in which they not only differ from each other in this respect, but the same individual differs from himself at different times. It is only, therefore, by a careful comparison of the various accounts, and by making allowance for the different circumstances under which the journies have been made, that these apparent inconsistencies can be reconciled, and an approximation to the truth obtained.

Many of our officers and men cordially greeted these poor people as old acquaintance they were glad to see again, and they

were loaded as usual with numerous presents, of which the only danger to be apprehended was lest they should go mad on account of them. The women screamed in a convulsive manner at every thing they received, and cried for five minutes together with the excess of their joy ; and to the honour of " John Bull " be it recorded, he sent by one of the men as he left the ship a piece of seal-skin, as a present to *Parree*, being the first offering of real gratitude, and without any expectation of return, that I had ever received from any of them. I never saw them express more surprise than on being assured that we had left Winter Island only a single day ; a circumstance which might well excite their wonder, considering that they had themselves been above forty in reaching our present station. They had obtained one rein-deer, and had now a large seal on their sledge, to which we added a quantity of bread-dust that seemed acceptable enough to them. As our way lay in the same direction as theirs, I would gladly have taken their whole establishment

on board the ships to convey them to Amittioke, but for the uncertain nature of this navigation, which might eventually have put it out of my power to land them at the precise place of their destination. The ice again opening, we were now obliged to dismiss them after half an hour's visit, when, having run to the Hecla's bows to see Captain Lyon and his people, they returned to their sledge as fast as their loads of presents would allow them.

We continued our progress northward, contending with the flood-tide and the drifting masses of ice; and the difficulties of such a navigation may be conceived from the following description of what happened to us on the 9th.

At half-past eight on the morning of the 9th, a considerable space of open water being left to the northward of us by the ice that had broken off the preceding night, I left the Fury in a boat for the purpose of sounding along the shore in that direction, in readiness for moving whenever the Hecla should be enabled to rejoin us. I found

the soundings regular in almost every part, and had just landed to obtain a view from an eminence, when I was recalled by a signal from the *Fury*, appointed to inform me of the approach of any ice. On my return, I found the external body once more in rapid motion to the southward with the flood-tide, and assuming its usual threatening appearance. For an hour or two the *Fury* was continually grazed, and sometimes heeled over by a degree of pressure which, under any other circumstances, would not have been considered a moderate one, but which the last two or three days' navigation had taught us to disregard, when compared with what we had reason almost every moment to expect. A little before noon a heavy floe, some miles in length, being probably a part of that lately detached from the shore, came driving down fast towards us, giving us serious reason to apprehend some more fatal catastrophe than any we had yet encountered. In a few minutes it came in contact, at the rate of a mile and a half an hour, with a point of the

land-ice left the preceding night by its own separation, breaking it up with a tremendous crash, and forcing numberless immense masses, perhaps many tons in weight, to the height of fifty or sixty feet, from whence they again rolled down on the inner or land side, and were quickly succeeded by a fresh supply. While we were obliged to be quiet spectators of this grand but terrific sight, being within five or six hundred yards of the point, the danger to ourselves was twofold; first, lest the floe should now swing in, and serve us much in the same manner; and secondly, lest its pressure should detach the land ice to which we were secured, and thus set us adrift and at the mercy of the tides. Happily, however, neither of these occurred, the floe remaining stationary for the rest of the tide, and setting off with the ebb which made soon after. In the meanwhile the *Hecla* had been enabled to get under sail, and was making considerable progress towards us, which determined me to move the *Fury* as soon as possible from her present situation into the bight I had

sounded in the morning; where we made fast in five and a half fathoms alongside some very heavy grounded ice, one third of a mile from a point of land lying next to the northward of Cape Wilson, and which is low for a short distance next the sea. At nine o'clock a large mass of ice fell off the land-floe and struck our stern; and a "calf" lying under it, having lost its superincumbent weight, rose to the surface with considerable force, lifting our rudder violently in its passage, but doing no material injury.

Early in the morning of the 10th, the breeze having freshened up from the S.S.W., the prospect to the northward was truly gratifying; and at fifteen minutes after one A.M., when the Hecla had nearly joined us, we made all sail along shore, soon deepening the water to twenty fathoms, and afterwards to thirty-five no bottom, at a distance of a mile and three quarters from the land. Very little snow was now lying upon the ground, and numerous streams of water rushing down the hills, and sparkling in the beams of the morning sun, relieved in some

measure the melancholy stillness which otherwise reigned on this desolate shore. At three A.M., we had sailed as near the end of the open water as we could safely venture, though in a sea without so strong a tide-way we might still perhaps have threaded a passage through the ice some miles farther. Here, however, it was indispensably necessary, if possible, to secure the ships before the strength of the flood-tide should come on, and we accordingly hauled in-shore for that purpose. The land along which we had been sailing was that from which the ice had been principally detached, so that we had doubts of finding either the means of holding fast or any security from driving on shore. On sending the boats to examine the soundings, however, both were fortunately discovered, there being abreast of the ships a number of heavy insulated masses of ice lying aground,* with

* These for distinction's sake we were in the habit of calling "bergs," though we saw none of the immense bodies properly so called, after reaching about the middle of Hudson's Strait.

small but sufficient patches of the land-floe within them still adhering to the beach. We here made fast in six fathoms, about a hundred yards from the shore, and were not sorry to obtain a little rest, as well as a temporary cessation from anxiety respecting the immediate safety of the ships. It was low water by the shore at fifty minutes past nine A.M., having fallen two feet in one hour and ten minutes.

After noon we landed to take a walk, and found the mineralogical character of this part of the coast nearly the same as before, the rocks being composed of greyish gneiss with fragments of granite, quartz, mica-slate, some iron-pyrites, and most of the other substances observed at Winter Island, lying scattered on the surface. Many of the stones found in the streams were coated with a thin crust of the oxyde of iron. There was no absolute want of vegetation, many considerable patches occurring entirely covered with moss, grass, and other plants; but the whole of these were in a remarkably backward state, the

saxifraga oppositifolia being, I believe, the only one as yet in flower. The *andromeda tetragona* was here very abundant, and numerous tufts of sorrel were just putting forth their first red leaves. A number of rein-deer were seen, but they proved too wild for us, and birds were unusually scarce. Captain Lyon picked up an Esquimaux lamp, curious on account of its being made of two pieces of red granite firmly cemented together, instead of pot-stone as usual.

At high water this evening, which took place at four P.M., the berg on which our chief dependence was placed for security from external pressure, rolled completely over, but still held fast on the ground. By the swell thus occasioned a disruption of some of the land-ice also took place, which for some time threatened to carry us adrift. At the same time a heavy floe coming in, promoted by its pressure this unwelcome disturbance, and releasing a "calf" under the Fury's stern, made it rise with considerable violence against her counter. The stream-cable was now fastened round the

berg, as the only remaining security against our being forced on shore, should the land-ice wholly desert us ; but the water falling from this time gave us some hours' respite.

The northerly breeze kept the ice moving to the southward during the whole of the ebb-tide, as had been so often remarked before, showing how weak the stream of that tide is on this coast, comparatively with the other, and the consequent necessity of holding on somewhere or other at all risks, when the state of the ice does not admit of making any progress to the northward. If the safety of a ship were alone to be consulted, it would undoubtedly answer that purpose most effectually to let her float about among the loose ice in the offing ; but a very few days' drift would in this case carry her to Southampton Island, and the labour of weeks thus be inevitably lost.

On the 12th, observing an opening in the land, like a river, I left the ship in a boat to examine the soundings of the coast. On approaching the opening, we found so strong a current setting out of it, as to induce me

to taste the water, which proved scarcely brackish; and a little closer in, perfectly fresh, though the depth was from fourteen to fifteen fathoms. As this stream was a sufficient security against any ice coming in, I determined to anchor the ships somewhere in its neighbourhood; and having laid down a buoy in twelve fathoms, off the north point of the entrance, returned on board, when I found all the boats a-head endeavouring to tow the ships in-shore. This could be effected, however, only by getting them across the stream of the inlet to the northern shore; and here finding some land-ice, the ships were secured late at night, after several hours of extreme labour to the people in the boats.

On the morning of the 13th, the ice being still close in with the land just to the northward of us, I determined on examining the supposed river in the boats, and at the same time to try our luck with the seines, as the place appeared a likely one for salmon. Accompanied by several of the officers, therefore, as well as by Captain Lyon in his own

boat, I left the Fury at half-past eight A.M., and was soon followed by a second boat from each ship. Immediately on opening the inlet we encountered a rapid current setting outwards, and after rowing a mile and a half to the N.W.b.W., the breadth of the stream varying from one-third of a mile to four or five hundred yards, came to some shoal water extending quite across. Landing on the south shore and hauling the boats up above high-water mark, we rambled up the banks of the stream, which are low next the water, but rise almost immediately to the height of about two hundred feet. As we proceeded we gradually heard the noise of a fall of water; and being presently obliged to strike more inland, as the bank became more precipitous, soon obtained a fresh view of the stream running on a much higher level than before, and dashing with great impetuosity down two small cataracts. Just below this, however, where the river turns almost at a right angle, we perceived a much greater spray, as well as a louder sound; and having walked a

short distance down the bank, suddenly came upon the principal fall, of whose magnificence I am at a loss to give any adequate description. At the head of the fall, or where it commences its principal descent, the river is contracted to about one hundred and fifty feet in breadth, the channel being hollowed out through a solid rock of gneiss. After falling about fifteen feet at an angle of 30° with a verticle line, the width of the stream is still narrowed to about forty yards, and then, as if mustering its whole force previous to its final descent, is precipitated in one vast continuous sheet of water almost perpendicular for ninety feet more. So nearly, indeed, is the rock perpendicular, that we were enabled to let down a sounding lead and line, for the purpose of measuring its actual height, while a man descended from crag to crag with a second line attached to him, to see when the lead touched the water below. The dashing of the water from such a height produced the usual accompaniment of a cloud of spray, broad columns of which were constantly

forced up, like the successive rushes of smoke from a vast furnace, and on this, near the top, a vivid *iris* or rainbow was occasionally formed by the bright rays of an unclouded sun. "The roaring of the mountain-cataract," which constitutes a principal feature of the sublime in scenery of this magnificent nature, was here almost deafening, and as we were able to approach the head of the fall, even as close as a single yard, the very rock seemed to suffer a concussion under our feet. The basin that receives the water at the foot of the fall is nearly of a circular form, and about four hundred yards in diameter, being rather wider than the river immediately below it. The fall is about three quarters of a mile above our landing-place, or two miles and a quarter from the entrance of the river.

After remaining nearly an hour, fixed as it were to the spot by the novelty and magnificence of the scene before us, we continued our walk upwards along the banks; and after passing the two smaller cataracts, found the river again increased in width to

above two hundred yards, winding in the most romantic manner imaginable among the hills, and preserving a smooth and unruffled surface for a distance of three or four miles that we traced it to the south-west above the fall. What added extremely to the beauty of this picturesque river, which Captain Lyon and myself named after our mutual friend, Mr. BARROW, Secretary to the Admiralty, was the richness of the vegetation on its banks, the enlivening brilliancy of a cloudless sky, and the animation given to the scene by several reindeer that were grazing beside the stream. Our sportsmen were fortunate in obtaining four of these animals; but we had no success with the seines, the ground proving altogether too rocky to use them with advantage or safety. The eider-ducks were here tolerably numerous, and we also met with some black-throated divers, golden plovers, and snow-buntings. On first entering the river two birds flew over our heads, appearing larger than eider-ducks, but with much less white on their backs and wings,

and without the duck bill. On our return down the river Captain Lyon landed on the opposite side, for the purpose of making a drawing of the fall in the best point of view; and we then returned on board at thirty minutes past two P.M. after the most gratifying visit we had ever paid to the shore in these regions.

The entrance of this river lies in lat. $67^{\circ} 18' 05''$, and in longitude, by chronometers, $81^{\circ} 25' 20''$. We found at half tide from ten to twelve feet water in mid-channel, for a mile below the first shallows, and it then quickly deepens to as many fathoms. The banks of the river had still a good deal of snow cleaving to them in some places, and we narrowly escaped being swamped by a heavy mass falling off into the water, just after we had rowed away from the spot. The mineralogical character of the land in this neighbourhood continued the same as that last described.

We found on our return that a fresh southerly breeze, which had been blowing for several hours, had driven the ice to

some distance from the land; so that at four P.M., as soon as the flood-tide had slackened, we cast off and made all possible sail to the northward, steering for a headland remarkable for having a patch of land towards the sea that appeared insular in sailing alongshore. As we approached this headland, which I named after my friend MR. EDWARD LEYCESTER PENRHYN, the prospect became more and more enlivening; for the sea was found to be navigable in a degree very seldom experienced in these regions, and, the land trending two or three points to the westward of north, gave us reason to hope we should now be enabled to take a decided and final turn in that anxiously-desired direction. As we rounded Cape Penrhyn at seven P.M., we began gradually to lose sight of the external body of ice, sailing close along that which was still attached in very heavy floes to this part of the coast. A headland, four leagues to the northward of Cape Penrhyn, was named after MR. ROBERT BROWN, a gentleman with whose knowledge and

labours in the department of botany every naturalist is acquainted. Both wind and tide being favourable, our progress was rapid and unobstructed, and nothing could exceed the interest and delight with which so unusual an event was hailed by us. Before midnight the wind came more off the land, and then became light and variable, after which it settled in the north-west with thick weather for several hours.

We continued beating to the northward under all sail during the night, the wind remaining steadily from that quarter with smooth water and extremely fine weather. Our latitude by observation at noon was $68^{\circ} 22' 21''$, and the longitude by chronometers, $81^{\circ} 56' 55''$. The land continued to be of the same character as before described, the hills at the back having now receded to a considerable distance from the coast, and the low shore, after making a large bend, again projecting a good deal to the eastward.

In the course of this day the walruses became more and more numerous every hour, lying in large herds upon the loose

pieces of drift-ice; and it having fallen calm at one P.M., we despatched our boats to kill some for the sake of the oil which they afford. On approaching the ice our people found them huddled close to, and even lying upon, one another, in separate droves of from twelve to thirty, the whole number near the boats being perhaps about two hundred. Most of them waited quietly to be fired at; and even after one or two discharges did not seem to be greatly disturbed, but allowed the people to land on the ice near them, and, when approached, showed an evident disposition to give battle. After they had got into the water, three were struck with harpoons and killed from the boats. When first wounded they became quite furious, and one, which had been struck from Captain Lyon's boat, made a resolute attack upon her, and injured several of the planks with its enormous tusks. A number of the others came round them, also repeatedly striking the wounded animals with their tusks, with the intention either of getting them away, or else of joining in the attack upon them.

Many of these animals had young ones which, when assaulted, they either took between their fore-flippers to carry off, or bore away on their backs. Both of those killed by the *Fury's* boats were females, and the weight of the largest was fifteen hundred and two quarters nearly; but it was by no means remarkable for the largeness of its dimensions. The peculiar barking noise made by the walrus when irritated, may be heard, on a calm day, with great distinctness at the distance of two miles at least. We found musquet-balls the most certain and expeditious way of despatching them after they had been once struck with the harpoon, the thickness of their skin being such, that whale-lances generally bend without penetrating it. One of these creatures being accidentally touched by one of the oars in Lieutenant Nias's boat, took hold of it between its flippers and forcibly twisting it out of the man's hand, snapped it in two. They produced us very little oil, the blubber being thin and poor at this season, but were welcome in a way that had not been anticipated;

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for some quarters of this "marine beef," as Captain Cook has called it, being hung up for steaks, the meat was not only eaten, but eagerly sought after on this and every other occasion throughout the voyage, by all those among us who could overcome the prejudice arising chiefly from the dark colour of the flesh. In no other respect that I could ever discover, is the meat of the walrus when fresh-killed in the slightest degree offensive or unpalatable. The heart and liver are indeed excellent.

While our boats were thus engaged a light air, that had sprung up from the southward, gradually increased, and as soon as our game was hoisted in we bore up under all sail along the land, which still continued so extremely low, that as the sun got round a-head we could scarcely distinguish its points, and ran along chiefly guided by the soundings. In the course of the night we passed thousands of walruses, large herds of which were lying with their young on almost every loose piece of ice we saw. At midnight we were abreast of

three small islets, which I consider to be the northernmost of those called by the Esquimaux "Ooglit," and so marked in the chart. We saw something like huts or tents upon them, but no other signs of inhabitants: we know, however, that they are at times a principal resort of many of the Esquimaux; and Iligliuk first directed our attention to them as the birth-place of her son.

After an unobstructed night's run, during which we met with no ice except in some loose "streams," the water became so much shoaler as to make it necessary to proceed with greater caution. Though the land along which we had been sailing had all been nearly equally low, we now began to decrease our soundings to nine, eight, and seven fathoms, and the water appeared much discoloured in some places. About this time also a great deal of high land came in sight to the northward and eastward, which, on the first inspection of the Esquimaux charts, we took to be the large portion of land called *Keiyuk-tar-*

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ruoke,* between which and the continent the promised strait lay that was to lead us to the westward. So far all was satisfactory; but after sailing a few miles farther it is impossible to describe our disappointment and mortification in perceiving an unbroken sheet of ice extending completely across the supposed passage from one land to the other. It is important here to notice that our chief disappointment arose, not from the mere presence of ice blocking up the desired passage, to which our most anxious hopes had long by anticipation been directed, but from the *nature* of the ice which constituted our present impediment. This consisted of a floe so level and continuous, that a single glance was sufficient to assure us of the disagreeable fact, that it was the ice formed in its present situation during the winter, and still firmly attached to the land on every side. It was

* This name being applied by the Esquimaux to several other portions of land, all of which are insular, or nearly so, it is probable that the word simply signifies an island.

certain, from its continuous appearance for some miles that we ran along its edge, that it had suffered no disruption this season, which circumstance involved the necessity of our awaiting that operation which nature seemed scarcely yet to have commenced in this neighbourhood, before we could hope to sail round the north-eastern point of the American continent.

At thirty minutes past nine A.M. we observed several tents on the low shore immediately abreast of us, and presently afterwards five canoes made their appearance at the edge of the land-ice intervening between us and the beach. As soon therefore as we had satisfactorily made out the position and state of the ice, I left the *Fury* in a boat, accompanied by some of the officers, and being joined by Captain Lyon, went to meet the Esquimaux, being extremely desirous of learning from them all the particulars of our situation. We soon found by the cautious manner in which the canoes approached us, that our Winter Island friends had not yet reached this neighbourhood. In a few minutes after we

had joined them, however, a few presents served to dissipate all their apprehensions, if indeed people could be said to entertain any who thus fearlessly met us half way; and we immediately persuaded them to turn back with us to the shore. Being under sail in the boat, with a fresh breeze, we took two of the canoes in tow and dragged them along at a great rate, much to the satisfaction of the Esquimaux, who were very assiduous in piloting us to the best landing-place upon the ice, where we were met by several of their companions and conducted to the tents. Before we had reached the shore, however, we had obtained one very interesting piece of information, namely, that it was Igloodik on which we were now about to land, and that we must therefore have made a very near approach to the strait which, as we hoped, was to conduct us once more into the Polar Sea.

We found here two divisions of tents, there being eleven where we landed, and five more about half a mile to the northward. They were situated on a low narrow bank, not more than twenty feet above

the level of the sea, and running along the island parallel to the beach, from which it is distant only a few yards. Within this bank were numerous ponds of water, and much swampy ground, and beyond these, at the back, the island gradually rises to a somewhat greater height. By the time we reached the tents we were surrounded by a crowd of men, women, and children, all carrying some trifling article, which they offered in barter, a business they seemed to understand as well, and to need, much more than their countrymen to the southward. It is pleasing, as well as remarkable, to find these people, even at our first intercourse with them, always appearing to entertain a sort of intuitive idea of the friendly disposition of the Kabloonas towards them, and of their wish as well as their ability to enrich them. No sooner, therefore, is the first of these ideas confirmed by kind and friendly behaviour than they begin to try what they can get from their new visitors. We were, of course, not backward in promoting a good under-

standing by means of such presents as we had brought with us, but they seemed to have no idea of our giving them any thing *gratis*, always offering some trifle in exchange, and expressing hesitation and surprise when we declined accepting it. This was not to be wondered at among people who scarcely know what a free gift is among themselves; but they were not long in getting rid of all delicacy or hesitation on this score.

The tents, which varied in size according to the number of occupants, consisted of several seal and walrus skins, the former dressed without the hair, and the latter with the thick outer coat taken off, and the rest shaved thin so as to allow of the transmission of light through it. These were put together in a clumsy and irregular patchwork, forming a sort of bag of a shape rather oval than round, and supported near the middle by a rude tent-pole composed of several deer's horns or the bones of other animals lashed together. At the upper end of this is attach-

ed another short piece of bone at right angles, for the purpose of extending the skins a little at the top, which is generally from six to seven feet from the ground. The lower part of the tent-pole rests on a large stone to keep it from sinking into the ground, and being no way secured, is frequently knocked down by persons accidentally coming against it, and again replaced upon the stone. The lower borders of the skins are held down by stones laid on them outside; and to keep the whole fabric in an erect position, a line of thong is extended from the top, on the side where the door is, to a larger stone placed at some distance. The door consists merely of two flaps, contrived so as to overlap one another, and to be secured by a stone laid upon them at the bottom. This entrance faces the south or south-east; and as the wind was now blowing fresh from that quarter and thick snow beginning to fall, these habitations did not impress us at first sight with a very favourable idea of the comfort and accommodation afforded by

them. The interior of the tents may be described in few words. On one side of the end next the door is the usual stone lamp resting on any other rough stones, with the *ootkooseek* or cooking-pot suspended over it; and round this are huddled together, in great confusion, the rest of the women's utensils, together with great lumps of raw sea-horse flesh and blubber, which at this season they enjoyed in most disgusting abundance. At the inner end of the tent, which is also the broadest, and occupying about one-third of the whole apartment, their skins are laid as a bed, having under them some of the *andromeda tetragona* when the ground is hard, but in this case placed on the bare dry shingle. Comfortless as these simple habitations appeared to us in a snow-storm, they are in general not deficient in warmth as summer residences; and being easily removed from place to place, they are certainly well suited to the wants and habits of this wandering people. When a larger habitation than usual is required, they contrive, by putting

two of these together, to form a sort of double tent, somewhat resembling a marquee, and supported by two poles. The difference between these tents and the one I had seen in Lyon Inlet the preceding autumn, struck me as remarkable, these having no *wall* of stones around them, as is usual in many that we have before met with, nor do I know their reason for adopting this different mode of construction.

Even if it were not the natural and happy disposition of these people to be pleased, and to place implicit confidence wherever kind treatment is experienced, that confidence would soon have been ensured by our knowledge of their friends and relations to the southward, and the information which we were enabled to give respecting their late and intended movements. This, while it excited in them extreme surprise, served also at once to remove all distrust or apprehension, so that we soon found ourselves on the best terms imaginable. In return for all this interesting information, they gave us the names of the different

portions of land in sight, many of which being recognised in their countrymen's charts, we no longer entertained a doubt of our being near the eastern entrance of the strait to which all our hopes were directed. We now found also that a point of land in sight, a few miles to the southward of the tents, was near that marked *Ping-īt-kū-lūk* on Ewerat's chart, and that, therefore, the low shore along which we had been constantly sailing the preceding night was certainly a part of the continent.

By the time we had distributed most of our presents, and told some long stories about Winter Island, to all which they listened with eager delight and interest, we found the weather becoming so inclement as to determine us to make the best of our way on board, and to take a more favourable opportunity of renewing our visit to the Esquimaux. The weather became more severe, and the wind drew more directly upon the ice, as we rowed out, so that the signal guns, fired occasionally by the ships to point out their situation to us,

were less and less distinctly heard. After pulling out for an hour and a half, Captain Lyon, who had a boat's crew composed of officers, and had unfortunately broken one of his oars, was under the necessity of returning to the shore. My anxiety lest the ships should be ventured too near the shore, from a desire to pick up the boats, induced me to persevere an hour longer, when the wind having increased to a gale, which prevented our hearing any of the guns, I reluctantly bore up for our former landing-place. So rapidly, however, had the sea broken up the whole margin of the land-ice, that this could no longer be recognised, and it was with our utmost exertions that we at length succeeded in reaching any part of the fixed floe, in consequence of the quantity of loose and drifting masses now occupying its margin. In forcing through these, the boat was stove by a sharp corner of a piece of ice, and was full of water up to the thwarts when we reached the grounded ice. After repairing this damage and securing the boat, we walked to

the shore, where I was happy to see the Hecla's boat safely hauled up. Captain Lyon and his party having quartered themselves at the southern tents, we took up our lodgings at the others, to which we were welcomed in the kindest and most hospitable manner. That we might accommodate the Esquimaux as little as possible, we divided into parties of two in each tent, though they would willingly have accommodated twice that number. Immediately on our arrival, they offered us dry boots, and it was not long before we were entirely "rigged out" in their dresses, which, thoroughly drenched as we were by the sea, proved no small comfort to us. With these and a seal-skin or two as a blanket, we kept ourselves tolerably warm during a most inclement night; and the tents, which but a few hours before we had looked upon as the most comfortless habitations imaginable, now afforded us a sufficient and most acceptable shelter.

The evening was passed in dealing out our information from the southward, and

never did any arrival excite more anxious inquiries than those we were now obliged to answer. So intimate was the knowledge we possessed respecting many of their relationships, that by the help of a memorandum book in which these had been inserted, I believe we almost at times excited a degree of superstitious alarm in their minds. This sort of gossip and incessant chattering and laughing continued till near midnight, when the numerous visitors in our tents began to retire to their own and to leave us to our repose.

Awaking at four A.M. on the 17th, I found that the weather had moderated and cleared up, and the ships soon after appearing in sight, we called our boat's crew up, and sent one of the Esquimaux round to the other tents to inform Captain Lyon of our setting out. Several of the natives accompanied us to our boat, which they cheerfully helped us to launch, and then went round to another part of the beach for their own canoes. A thick fog had come on before

this time, notwithstanding which, however, we managed to find the ships, and got on board by seven o'clock. Five canoes arrived soon after, and the wind being now light and variable, we lay to for an hour to repay our kind friends for the hospitable reception they had given us. After supplying them abundantly with tin canisters, knives, and pieces of iron-hoop, we hauled to the north-eastward to continue our examination of the state of the ice, in hopes of finding that the late gale had in this respect done us some service.

Lieutenant Nias informed me on my return that the ships had, as I apprehended, experienced considerable difficulty in beating off the shore and the ice, upon which the gale had directly blown with a good deal of sea. The Hecla had, indeed, been once driven upon the margin of the floe, where she remained in a very awkward situation for half an hour, and then fortunately effected her escape ; after which, by carrying a press of canvass, both ships suc-

ceeded in gaining an offing, though not without much fatigue from constant wet and exertion.

I cannot delay any longer to remark, how valuable the geographical information received from the Esquimaux had now proved to us, especially at this particular crisis. On our arrival off Igloolik we had suddenly been arrested in our progress by an impenetrable barrier of ice, appearing to occupy the entrance of a large inlet or strait leading in the very direction in which it was our business to seek and to force a passage. On tracing the northern land, as far as the ice would permit, we now had it in sight reaching over nearly the whole extent of the eastern horizon, and almost to a south bearing, rendering it at least as likely as not that it would be found to continue as far as Fox's Farthest, or even to join the land in that neighbourhood. It is true that, in any case, nothing short of actual examination was to be deemed conclusive or admissible by us, and that therefore it was our business to wait till such examination

could be effected; but who that can place himself for a moment in our situation will fail to appreciate the value of that information, which left no doubt of the geographical position of the lands before us, as respected the existence of the strait, and thus saved us the inconceivable suspense and anxiety which entire ignorance on this subject would not fail to have occasioned?

Finding that a further examination of the eastern lands could not at present be carried on, without incurring the risk of hampering the ships at a time when, for aught that we knew, the ice might be breaking up at the entrance of the strait, we stood back to the westward, and, having fetched near the middle of Igloolik, were gratified in observing that a large "patch" of the fixed ice* had broken off and drifted out of sight during our absence. At nine A.M. we saw eleven canoes coming off from the shore,

* The expression "fixed ice" appearing better suited to our present obstacle than that of "land ice," I shall in future adopt it in speaking of this barrier.

our distance from the tents being about four miles, where our soundings were from eleven to twelve fathoms, having shoaled gradually in the last two or three miles from forty-two to that depth. As the new line of ice left us something to examine, we bore up along its edge for that purpose, as well as to avoid the disturbance of our friends, who were approaching us with loud shouts during the time of divine service. After this the wind backed more to the southward, and thick snow coming on so as to prevent our seeing ahead, we hove to for the canoes which had in the mean time communicated with the Hecla. We now hoisted two of them on board, their owners *Kā-kĕe* and *Nŭ-y⁻k-kă* being very well pleased with the expedient, to avoid damaging them alongside. Above an hour was occupied in endeavouring to gain additional information respecting the land to the westward, and the time when we might expect the ice to break up in the strait, after which we dismissed them with various useful presents, the atmosphere becoming extremely thick

with snow, and threatening a repetition of the same inclement weather as we had lately experienced. The snow ceasing, however, in the course of the evening we found ourselves close to a small island called by the Esquimaux *Seē-ō-wāk*, and laid down by Iligliuk in her chart with astonishing precision. This little island, which, from its extreme lowness, and being situated just in the middle of the mouth of the strait, is somewhat dangerous, subsequently received the name of TERN ISLAND, from the immense number of those birds found upon it. It is almost entirely surrounded with shoals, particularly on its southern and eastern sides, but attention to the leads is sufficient to prevent danger, and the grounded ice is in general a tolerably safe beacon. The wind having now veered to the northward and westward, with clear weather, I directed the ships to be made fast to the fixed ice between Tern Island and another to the northward of Igloolik, this being a favourable situation for observing any alteration that might take place. I was desirous more-

over of obtaining good observations for our position and angles for the survey, which the state of the weather had prevented our doing since our arrival off the strait.

On the 23d we went on shore to pay another visit to the Esquimaux, who came down on the ice in great numbers to receive us, repeatedly stroking down the front of their jackets with the palm of the hand as they advanced, a custom not before mentioned, as we had some doubt about it at Winter Island, and which they soon discontinued here. They also frequently called out *tima*, a word which, according to Hearne, signifies in the Esquimaux language, "What cheer!" and which Captain Franklin heard frequently used on first accosting the natives at the mouth of the Copper-mine River. It seems to be among these people a salutation equivalent to that understood by these travellers, or at least some equally civil and friendly one, for nothing could exceed the attention which they paid us on landing. Some individual always attached himself to each of us immediately on our leaving the

boat, pointing out the best road, and taking us by the hand or arm to help us over the streams of water or fissures in the ice, and attending us wherever we went during our stay on shore.

The day proving extremely fine and pleasant, every thing assumed a different appearance from that at our former visit, and we passed some hours on shore very agreeably. About half a mile inland of the tents, and situated upon the rising ground beyond the swamps and ponds before mentioned, we found the ruins of several winter habitations, which, upon land so low as Igloolik, formed very conspicuous objects at the distance of several miles to sea-ward. These were of the same circular and dome-like form as the snow-huts, but built with much more durable materials, the lower part or foundation being of stones, and the rest, of the various bones of the whale and walrus, gradually inclining inwards and meeting at the top. The crevices, as well as the whole of the outside, were then covered with turf, which, with the additional coating of snow,

in the winter, serves to exclude the cold air very effectually. The entrance is towards the south, and consists of a passage ten feet long, and not more than two in height and breadth, built of flat slabs of stone, having the same external covering as that of the huts. The beds are raised by stones two feet from the ground, and occupy about one-third of the apartment at the inner end, and the windows and a part of the roofs had been taken away for the convenience of removing their furniture in the spring. It was a natural inference, from the nature of these habitations, that these people, or at least a portion of them, were constant residents on this spot, which indeed seemed admirably calculated to afford in luxurious profusion all that constitutes Esquimaux felicity. This, however, did not afterwards prove to be absolutely the case ; for though Igloolik, (as perhaps the name may imply,) is certainly one of their principal and favourite rendezvous, yet we subsequently found the island entirely deserted by them at the same season.

In every direction around the huts were lying innumerable bones of walruses and seals, together with skulls of dogs, bears, and foxes, on many of which a part of the putrid flesh still remaining sent forth the most offensive effluvia. We were not a little surprised to find also a number of human skulls lying about among the rest, within a few yards of the huts; and were somewhat inclined to be out of humour on this account with our new friends, who not only treated the matter with the utmost indifference, but on observing that we were inclined to add some of them to our collections, went eagerly about to look for them, and tumbled, perhaps, the craniums of some of their own relations, into our bag without delicacy or remorse. In various other parts of the island we soon after met with similar relics no better disposed of; but we had yet to learn how little pains these people take to place their dead out of the reach of hungry bears or anatomical collectors.

We found here a very abundant vegetation, which is much favoured by the nume-

rous streamlets and ponds, as well as by the manure afforded by the permanent residence of the Esquimaux near this spot. In some places were many hundred yards of square space covered with moss of a beautiful soft velvet-like appearance, and of a bright green colour, such as I never saw before; and perhaps, indeed, moss cannot well be more luxuriant. As I shall have abundant opportunities of speaking more in detail of the natural productions of this island, with which we unfortunately became much better acquainted than we wished, I shall only add, in this place, that the mineralogical character was essentially different from that last examined to the southward, consisting almost entirely of innumerable fragments of thin schistose limestone, on many of which are fossil impressions, and in others the cellular structure usually exhibited by madreporite. For the reasons just stated I shall also defer speaking of the geographical position of Igloodik, and of the observations now made here on the tides; a cursory and unconnected notice or two on this subject

being of little or no importance, where more ample information can be obtained.

The account we gave of our visit to the shore naturally exciting the curiosity and interest of those who had not yet landed, and the ice remaining unchanged on the 24th, a couple of boats were despatched from each ship, with a large party of the officers and men, while the ships stood off and on. On the return of the boats in the evening, I found from Lieutenant Reid that a new family of the natives had arrived to-day from the main land, bringing with them a quantity of fine salmon and venison, of which some very acceptable samples were procured for both ships. Being desirous of following up so agreeable a kind of barter, I went on shore the next morning for that purpose, but could only procure a very small quantity of fish from the tent of the new-comer, a middle-aged, noisy, but remarkably intelligent and energetic man, named *Tōōlēmdk*. After some conversation, we found from this man that in order to obtain a fresh supply of fish, three days

would be required ; this prevented my putting in execution a plan of going out to the place where the fish were caught, which we at first understood to be near at hand. We therefore employed all our eloquence in endeavouring to procure a supply of this kind by means of the Esquimaux themselves, in which we at length so far succeeded that Toolemak promised, for certain valuable considerations of wood and iron, to set out on this errand the following day.

The weather being remarkably fine and pleasant, we amused ourselves for an hour or two in paddling about in canoes in a small lake, and soon found that the art is not so difficult to acquire as their unsteadiness at first inclines one to suppose. A great deal undoubtedly depends on the habit of keeping the body in a central and erect position, and care should also be taken to avoid touching the rim of the hole, because this, from its height, acts as a lever in oversetting the canoe. They are by no means, however, so "crank" as they appear, easily coming down to their "bearings," but then requiring con-

siderable force to press them farther. The greatest difficulty we experienced in the management of them was to prevent "broaching to" when going before the wind, the rower sitting so near the centre as to exert his power to great disadvantage in turning their heads in any direction. Paddling head to wind is by far the most easy and pleasant. Nothing is more likely to upset a canoe than what we call "catching a crab" with the paddle, which is therefore to be carefully avoided; but I believe that any seaman might, after a few months' practice, render himself as expert as the Esquimaux in the management of these frail coracles, at least for every purpose to which they are commonly applied.

Shortly after I returned on board Captain Lyon made the signal "to communicate with me," for the purpose of offering his services to accompany our fisherman on his proposed journey, attended by one of the Hecla's men; to which, in the present unfavourable state of the ice, I gladly consented, as the most likely means of procuring information

of interest during this our unavoidable detention. I therefore gave Captain Lyon an order to this effect directing his attention to the acquirement of geographical and natural knowledge; and to prevent the possibility of occasioning detention to the Expedition, limiting the time of his absence to the morning of the 30th. Being equipped with a small tent, blankets, and four days' provision, Captain Lyon left us at ten P.M., when I made sail to re-examine the margin of the ice.

We employed the following day in examining Tern Island, and having seen all that this little spot produced, we sailed over to the eastern islands, which I named the **CALTHORPE ISLANDS**, out of respect to **LORD CALTHORPE**. They had attracted our attention by two of them appearing at a distance to be of the primitive formation, which had for some time forsaken us. Finding that a great deal of ice had been detached and drifted away since our last attempt in this neighbourhood, we were now enabled to approach the middle island of the three as

near as the depth of water would admit; and in the evening made the ships fast to the fixed ice in twelve fathoms, at the distance of a long mile from the shore. The depth was regular and the bottom good in every part.

On the 28th, after divine service, we landed on the middle island, which was found to be composed of gneiss rock, and in every respect a counterpart of Winter Island in its other mineral productions. To save Iligliuk's credit, who had described these islands as inhabited, we found the south end covered with winter huts of precisely the same kind and materials as those described at Igloolik, but so overgrown with long rich grass as to indicate their having been two or three years deserted. Numberless skulls and bones were lying about them as usual, and some stone lamps and glass beads had also been left among the ruins. Leading from the huts towards the highest part of the island, was a curious path made by the natives, two feet in width, and formed by removing the stones in places

where they were naturally abundant, and where the ground was bare, by placing two regular and parallel rows at that distance apart. The only conjecture we could form respecting the use of this artificial road was that it might be intended for a deer path, (those animals preferring a regular or beaten track to any other,) by which means the Esquimaux might perhaps kill them from their ambush of stones. From the top of this island, which is not more than a mile in length, we obtained a commanding view and good angles of all the surrounding lands. Immediately to the eastward appeared a piece of low land that seemed insular, with a great extent of coast of the same kind at the back of it, which we could trace till lost in the distance. Only two islands of the four more immediately forming this group are of the high and rugged primitive formation; the outer one, which, from the quantity of seaweed floating near it, we distinguished by the name of **TANGLE ISLAND**, being low and of the same character as Igloolik, with much shoal water about it.

Large flocks of long-tailed, king, and eider ducks were about these islands, but all too wild to be approached, and we procured no game by this visit to the shore.

It blew fresh from the eastward during the night, with continued rain, all which we considered favourable for dissolving and dislodging the ice, though very comfortless for Captain Lyon on his excursion. The weather at length clearing up in the afternoon, I determined on beating to the eastward, to see if more of the land in that direction could be made out than the unfavourable position of the ice would permit at our last visit. In the mean time, I directed Lieutenant Hoppner to stand over to Igloolik in the Hecla, to see if Captain Lyon had returned, and if not, to leave an officer with a small party at the tents, with signals to announce his arrival. The Fury then made sail and stood to the eastward, encountering the usual strength of tide off the south-west point of Tangle Island, and soon after a great quantity of heavy drift-ice apparently not

long detached from some land. In endeavouring to beat between this and the island, which is very shoal on that side, we gradually decreased our soundings every tack, till we had only four fathoms and a half, at the distance of a full mile from the shore. To avoid the risk of grounding in this rapid tide-way, we were then obliged to bear away for a narrow "neck" to leeward, through which the ship was at length forced, and we soon got into clear water beyond.

I determined to avoid, if possible, the entanglement of the *Fury* among the ice, which now surrounded her on every side, and to stand back to Igloolik to hear what information Captain Lyon's journey might have procured for us. Before we could get into tolerably clear water, however, we had to run several miles to the southward, and then hoping to sail without farther incumbrance, shaped a direct course for Igloolik.

At the distance of one-third of a mile from Tangle Island, where we immediately gained the open sea beyond, we observed the *Hecla*

standing towards us, and rejoined her at a quarter before eleven, when Captain Lyon came on board to communicate the result of his late journey, of which he furnished me with the following account, accompanied by a sketch of the lands he had seen, as far as the extremely unfavourable state of the weather would permit.

“Accompanied by George Dunn, I found Toolemak on landing, who welcomed us to his tent, in which for two hours it was scarcely possible to move, in consequence of the crowd who came to gaze at us. A new deer-skin was spread for me, and Dunn having found a corner for himself, we all lay down to sleep, not, however, until our host, his wife, their little son, and a dog, had turned in beside me under cover of a fine warm skin, all naked except the lady, who with the decorum natural to her sex kept on a part of her clothes. It rained incessantly during the night, and the morning of the 26th was in consequence very unfavourable for our purposed expedition. At ten A.M. we started and found the sledge

on a beach near the southern ice. Four men were to accompany us on this vehicle, and the good-natured fellows volunteered to carry our luggage. A second sledge was under the charge of three boys who had eight dogs, while our team consisted of eleven. The weather was so thick that at times we could not see a quarter of a mile before us, but yet went rapidly forward to the W.N.W., when, after about six hours, we came to a high bold land and a great number of islands of reddish granite, wild and barren in the extreme. We here found the ice in a very decayed state, and in many places the holes and fissures were difficult if not dangerous to pass. At the expiration of eight hours our impediments in this respect had increased to such a degree as to stop our farther progress. Dunn, the old man, and myself therefore walked over a small island, beyond which we saw a sheet of water, which precluded any farther advance otherwise than by boats. At about three miles west of this were two bluffs separated by an apparent strait of half a

mile in width, on the other side of which lay a flat field of ice over which was land in the distance. The old man gave the name of *Khemig* to the two bluffs.

"In the hope that the morning would prove more favourable for our seeing the land, the only advantage now to be derived from our visit since the fishing-place was not attainable, it was decided to pass the night on one of the rocky islands. The Esquimaux having brought no provision with them, I distributed our four days' allowance of meat in equal proportions to the whole party, who afterwards lay down to sleep on the rocks, having merely a piece of skin to keep the rain from their faces. In this comfortless state they remained very quietly for eight hours. Our little hunting-tent just held Dunn and myself, although not in a very convenient manner, but it answered the purpose of keeping us dry except from a stream of water that ran under us all night.

"The morning of the 27th was rather fine for a short time, and we saw above

thirty islands, which I named COXE'S GROUP, varying in size from one hundred yards to a mile or more in length. Two deer were observed on the northern land, which was called *Khead-Laghioo* by the Esquimaux, and Toolemak accompanied Dunn in chase of them. One was killed by the latter, as he informed me, in consequence of the old man's lying behind a stone and imitating the peculiar bellow of these animals, until it was led by its curiosity to come within a short gun-shot. On crossing to bring over our game, we found the old Esquimaux had skinned and broken up the deer after his own manner, and my companions being without food I divided it into shares. The entrails and paunch I was about to leave on the plain, but was reminded by the anxious looks of the natives, that these offals are described by Crantz as delicacies, under the name of *Nërōökä*, or, "the eatable," an appellation which also distinguishes them at Igloodik. I accordingly assigned these choice morsels to a young man of our party who bore them off in triumph.

“ Arriving on the ice a skin was taken from the sledge as a seat, and we all squatted down to a repast which was quite new to me. In ten minutes the natives had picked the deer's bones so clean that even the hungry dogs disdained to gnaw them a second time. Dunn and myself made our breakfast on a choice slice cut from the spine, and found it so good, the wind-pipe in particular, that at dinner-time we preferred the same food to our share of the preserved meat which we had saved from the preceding night. Of the nerooka I also tasted a small portion, on the principle that no man who wishes to conciliate or inquire into the manners of savages should refuse to fare as they do. I found this substance acid and rather pungent, resembling as near as I could judge a mixture of sorrel and radish leaves. I conceive that the acidity recommends it to these people.

“ As we sat I observed the musquitoes to be very numerous, but they were lying in a half torpid state on the ice and incapable of molesting us. I obtained the meridian

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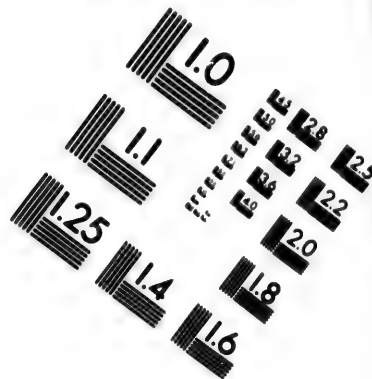
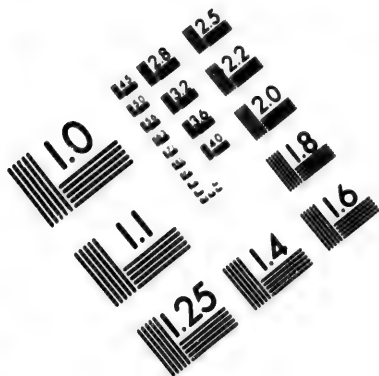
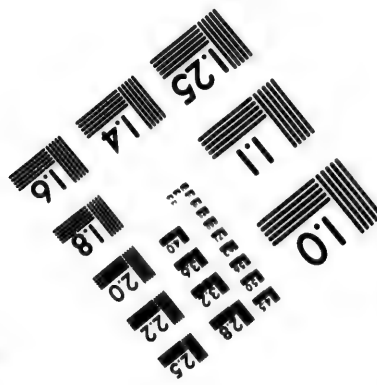
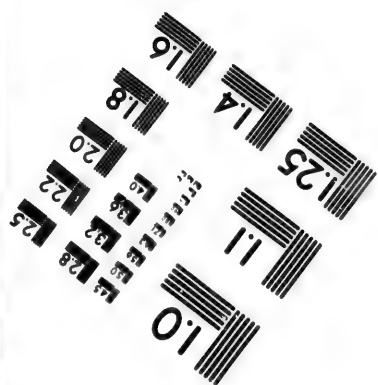
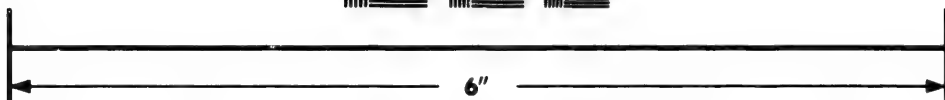
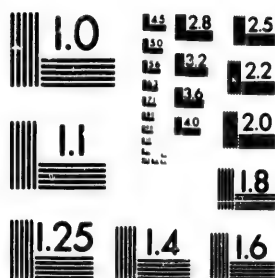


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Drawn by Capt. J. W. B. N.

SLUDDGES OF THE ESKIMAUX.

Engraved by J. B. W. B. N.

Engraved by J. B. W. B. N.

STUDIES OF THE EVIDENCE

Published by the American Psychological Association



altitude, which gave the lat. $69^{\circ} 26' 48''$ N.; the western extreme of Igloolik bearing E.S.E. about fourteen miles. Soon after noon we set forward on our return, and, without seeing any object but the flat and decaying ice, passed from land to land with our former celerity, dashing through large pools of water much oftener than was altogether agreeable to men who had not been dry for above thirty hours, or warm for a still longer period. Our eleven dogs were large fine-looking animals, and an old one of peculiar sagacity was placed at their head by having a longer trace, so as to lead them over the safest and driest places, for these animals have a great dread of water. The leader was instant in obeying the voice of the driver, who did not beat but repeatedly talked to and called it by name. It was beautiful to observe the sledges racing to the same object, the dogs and men in full cry, and the vehicles splashing through the water with the velocity of rival stage coaches.

“ We were joyfully welcomed to the

dwelling of Ooyarra, whose guest I was now to become, and the place of honour, the deer-skin seat, was cleared for my reception. His two wives, *Kāi-mōō-khiḍk* and *And-rūn-nl*, occupied one end, for it was a double tent; while at the opposite extremity the parents of the senior wife were established. The old mother *Nōw-kīt-yōo* assisted the young women in pulling off our wet clothes and boots, which latter being of native manufacture, she new-soled and mended without any request on our side, considering us as a part of the family. Our knapsacks and clothes being wet, we gladly turned, in presence of a dozen or more of visitors, into our blanket-bags, which had been better preserved. Dunn slept in the little tent to watch our goods, and I had a small portion of Ooyarra's screened off for me by a seal's skin. Tired as I was, sleep was denied me; for I was obliged on the arrival of each new set of people to answer their questions as to how I possibly could have got into the bag, the manner in which I had wrapped it round me for warmth leading

them to suppose I was sewed up in it. My host and his wives having retired to another tent, and my visitors taking compassion on me, I went comfortably to sleep; but at midnight was awakened by a feeling of great warmth, and to my surprise found myself covered by a large deer-skin, under which lay my friend, his two wives, and their favourite puppy, all fast asleep and stark naked. Supposing this was all according to rule, I left them to repose in peace and resigned myself to sleep.

“On rising, Dunn and I washed with soap in a pond, which caused great speculations amongst the by-standers, on some of whom we afterwards performed miracles in the cleansing way. A large assemblage being collected to hear me talk of Neyuning-Eitua, or Winter Island, and to see us eat, the women volunteered to cook for us; and as we preferred a fire in the open air to their lamps, the good-natured creatures sat an hour in the rain to stew some venison which we had saved from our shares of the deer. The fires in summer, when in the

open air, are generally made of bones previously well rubbed with blubber, and the female who attends the cooking chews a large piece, from which as she extracts the oil, she spurts it on the flame. At our meals I found every person much pleased with biscuit, which was supposed to be the dried flesh of the musk ox by those who had never seen that animal, and it was with great difficulty I explained that it was made from the seeds of a little tree and pounded to its present state.

“ After noon, as I lay half asleep, a man came and, taking me by the hand, desired Dunn to follow. He led to a tent which from the stillness within I conjectured was untenanted. Several men stood near the door ; and on entering I found eighteen women assembled and seated in regular order, with the seniors in front. In the centre near the tent-pole stood two men, who, when I was seated on a large stone, walked slowly round, and one began dancing in the usual manner to the favourite tune of ‘ Amna aya.’ The second person, as I

soon found, was the dancer's assistant, and when the principal had pretty well exhausted himself, he walked gravely up to him, and, taking his head between his hands, performed a ceremony called *Kōō-nlk*, which is rubbing noses, to the great amazement and amidst the plaudits of the whole company. After this, as if much refreshed, he resumed his performance, occasionally however taking a koonik to enliven himself and the spectators. The *rubbee*, if I may be excused the expression, was at length brought forward and put in the place of the first dancer, who rushed out of the tent to cool himself. In this manner five or six couples exhibited alternately, obtaining more or less applause according to the oddity of their grimaces. At length a witty fellow, in consequence of some whispering and tittering amongst the ladies, advanced and gave me the koonik, which challenge I was obliged to answer by standing up to dance, and my nose was in its turn most severely rubbed, to the great delight of all present.

“Having been as patient as could be wish-

ed for above an hour, and being quite overpowered by the heat of the crowded tent, I made a hasty retreat, after having distributed needles to all the females, and exacting kooniks from all the prettiest in return. A general outcry was now made for Dunn, a most quiet north countryman, to exhibit also ; but he, having seen the liberties which had been taken with my nose, very prudently made his retreat, anticipating what would be his fate if he remained.

“ During a short interval of fine weather we hung out our clothes to dry, and the contents of our knapsacks, instruments, knives, and beads, were strewed on the ground while we went inland to shoot a few ducks. We cautioned no one against thieving, and were so much at their mercy that every thing might have been taken without a possibility of detection, yet not a single article was found to have been removed from its place at our return. At night I was attended by the same bed-fellows as before ; the young puppy, however, being now better acquainted, took up

his quarters in my blanket-bag, as from thence he could the more easily reach a quantity of walrus-flesh which lay near my head, and I was awakened more than once by finding him gnawing a lump by my side.

"On the morning of the 29th I was really glad to find that the ships were not yet in sight, as I should be enabled to pass another day amongst the hospitable natives. While making my rounds I met several others who were also visiting, and who each invited me to call at his tent in its turn. Wherever I entered the master rose and resigned his seat next his wife or wives, and stood before me or squatted on a stone near the door. I was then told to 'speak!' or in fact to give a history of all I knew of the distant tribe, which, from constant repetition, I could now manage pretty well. In one tent I found a man mending his paddle, which was ingeniously made of various little scraps of wood, ivory, and bone, lashed together. He put it into my hands to repair, taking it for granted that a Kabloona would succeed much better than him-

self. An hour afterwards the poor fellow came and took me by the hand to his tent, where I found a large pot of walrus flesh evidently cooked for me. His wife licked a piece and offered it, but on his saying something to her took out another, and having pared off the outside, gave me the clean part, which, had it been carrion, I would not have hurt these poor creatures by refusing. The men showed me some curious puzzles with knots on their fingers, and I did what I could in return. The little girls were very expert in a singular but dirty amusement, which consisted in drawing a piece of sinew up their nostrils, and producing the end out of their mouths. The elder people were, for the most part, in chase of the tormentors, which swarmed in their head and clothes; and I saw, for the first time, an ingenious contrivance for detaching them from the back, or such parts of the body as the hands could not reach. This was the rib of a seal, having a bunch of the whitest of a deer's hair attached to one end of it, and on this rubbing the places

which require it the little animals stick to it; from their colour they are easily detected, and of course consigned to the mouths of the hunters.

“The weather clearing in the afternoon one ship was seen in the distance, which diffused a general joy amongst the people, who ran about screaming and dancing with delight. While lounging along the beach and waiting the arrival of the ship, I proposed a game at ‘leap-frog,’ which was quite new to the natives, and in learning which some terrible falls were made. Even the women with the children at their backs would not be outdone by the men, and they formed a grotesque party of opposition jumpers. Tired with a long exhibition I retreated to the tent, but was allowed a very short repose, as I was soon informed that the people from the farthest tents were come to see my performance, and on going out I found five men stationed at proper distances with their heads down for me to go over them, which I did amidst loud cries of *koyenna* (thanks).

“ As the ship drew near in the evening I perceived her to be the Hecla, but not expecting a boat so late lay down to sleep. I soon found my mistake, for a large party came drumming on the side of the tent, and crying out that a ‘ little ship ’ was coming, and in fact I found the boat nearly on shore. Ooyarra’s senior wife now anxiously begged to tattoo a little figure on my arm, which she had no sooner done than the youngest insisted on making the same mark ; and while all around were running about and screaming in the greatest confusion, these two poor creatures sat quietly down to embellish me. When the boat landed a general rush was made for the privilege of carrying our things down to it. Awarunni, who owned the little dog which slept with me, ran and threw him as a present into the boat ; when, after a general koonik, we pushed off, fully sensible of the kind hospitality we had received. Toolemak and Ooyarra came on board in my boat, in order to pass the night and receive

presents, and we left the beach under three hearty cheers.

“ Having given so long an account of my adventures, it is high time to turn to objects of more importance to the Expedition. I had found the ice over which we passed flat, unbroken, but much decayed into holes. The general thickness was still from one to three feet, and amongst the islands much greater, owing to the packing incidental to the rise and fall of the tides. Astronomical or other observations for fixing the position of the land could not be obtained in consequence of the state of the weather, which, with the kind of fatality that had attended all my excursions, had been more than usually severe and foggy. I had seen enough to awaken curiosity, but nothing to satisfy it; therefore it would be requisite for other visits to be made to a spot to which the Esquimaux attached some importance.”

CHAPTER XI.

Remarkable instance of local attraction on the magnetic needles—Occasional separation of a portion of the fixed ice—A whale killed—Other charts drawn by the Esquimaux—Account of a journey to the narrows of the strait—Discovery of the sea to the westward—Total disruption of the ice at the eastern entrance of the strait—A second instance of local attraction on the compasses—Sail through the narrows, and again stopped by fixed ice—Account of several land journeys and boat excursions—Observations on the tides—Continued obstacles from fixed ice.

Aug. 1.—THE information obtained by Captain Lyon on his late journey with the Esquimaux, served very strongly to confirm all that had before been understood from those people, respecting the existence of the desired passage to the westward in this neighbourhood, though the impossibility of Captain Lyon's proceeding farther in that di-

rection, combined with our imperfect knowledge of the language, still left us in some doubt as to the exact position of the strait in question. It was certain, however, that it lay somewhere in the direction to which we had already been so long and so anxiously looking, and that its eastern entrance was still occupied by many miles of fixed and therefore impenetrable ice; but the very impediment that had arrested Captain Lyon's progress, as well as our own daily observations on the state of the ice near its outer margin, appeared to offer a considerable hope that this obstacle must, in the common course of nature, very soon disappear, even by the gradual process of dissolution, if it were not more speedily removed by one grand and total disruption. While, therefore, Captain Lyon was acquainting me with his late proceedings, we shaped a course for Igloolik, in order to continue our look-out upon the ice, and made the tents very accurately by the compass, after a run of five leagues, when the Hecla hauled in-shore to pick up one of her men

that had been left there to procure game, and the Fury stood towards the margin of the ice.

The wind backing by the N.E. to N.N.W. during the night, we had on the 3d a clear and pleasant day, which, as the ice remained in the same state as before, induced us to pay another visit to Tern Island. We here found the scurvy-grass so much improved in luxuriance that a number of men from each ship were employed all day in picking it for the purpose of boiling with our pea-soup. Every body seemed to agree that the taste of this plant somewhat resembled turnip-tops, but it possesses it in a very small degree, and whatever may be its anti-scorbutic qualities, has little or nothing to recommend it to the palate. The leaves were in general numerous, but not exceeding two-eighths of an inch in diameter, and in many tufts there was nothing but the flower and stalks; but these, as well as the root, were all committed to our coppers, being the only general supply of the kind obtained during this voyage. The tern had now almost entirely

deserted the island, and we saw no other birds except a flock or two of phalaropes and a few silvery gulls.

The present state of the ice, which was thin and "rotten," served no less to excite our surprise than to keep alive our hopes and expectations. The spaces occupied respectively by ice and holes were about equal; and so extensive and dangerous were the latter, that the men could with extreme difficulty walk twenty or thirty yards from the ship to place the anchors, and that at no small risk of falling through. The shape of the ponds and holes being serpentine and various, and their blue colour forming a striking contrast with the whiteness of the snow that lay on the ice, gave the floe, when viewed from the mast-head, an appearance not unlike that of the fancy-patterns one sometimes sees on cloths or paper-hangings. We were astonished therefore to find with what tenacity a field of ice, whose parts appeared thus loosely joined, still continued to hang together, notwith-

standing the action of the swell that almost constantly set upon its margin.

We had for several days past occasionally seen black whales about the ships, and our boats were kept in constant readiness to strike one, for the sake of the oil, in which endeavour they at length succeeded this morning. The usual signal being exhibited, all the boats were sent to their assistance, and in less than an hour and a half had killed and secured the fish, which proved a moderate-sized one of above "nine feet bone," exactly suiting our purpose. The operation of "flinching" this animal, which was thirty-nine feet and a half in length, occupied most of the afternoon, each ship taking half the blubber and hauling it on the ice, "to make off," or put into casks. We also made fires on the ice, in order to boil a portion of the blubber into oil, for the convenience of stowage; but this method being found a wasteful one until it is left several days to drain, we boiled only a hundred and twenty gallons each, and then put

the rest into tanks and casks, being a supply sufficient for at least two years.

The latitude of our present station was $69^{\circ} 32' 10''$; the longitude, by chronometers, $81^{\circ} 23' 06''$; the dip of the magnetic needle $88^{\circ} 06' 26''$; and the variation $86^{\circ} 05' 43''$ westerly; the latter phenomenon having considerably increased since our last observations. In the course of the night Mr. Ross was again fortunate in procuring one or two specimens of the *Laurus Sabini*, out of a flock of forty that flew past the ship from the westward. Mr. Ross remarked that they had no other birds in company and flew high as if migrating, but afterwards alighted in the open water at some distance from the edge of the ice. The operation of "flinching" a whale, which in Davis's Strait and the Greenland Seas collects a large assemblage of birds about the ship, had not the same effect here, five or six of the *Larus Argentatus* being all that were thus attracted. Fulmar petrels, the usual visitors on such occasions, are never seen here, which seemed to us the more remarkable

as they had generally been our companions in most other parts of the polar regions that we had visited. We had to-day, for the first time this summer, seen a number of white whales (*delphinus albicans*) near the ice; but found them, as usual, so extremely wary as to elude every endeavour to strike them, though the boats frequently made the attempt, this being the only large sea animal inhabiting these regions which we had never yet taken.

On the forenoon of the 6th a halo was observed round the sun, and on the eastern side of it a slightly-coloured parhelion, distant from the sun 27.17° . Some water, brought up on the 7th, from sixty fathoms or near the bottom, was at the temperature of 31.6° , that of the surface being 31.3° , and of the air 35° . As soon as we had completed the stowage of the blubber, and washed the ships and people's clothes, we cast off, taking in tow the carcass of the whale (technically called the "crang") for our friends at Igloodik, and with the intention also of looking for the buoy that had

been laid down in that neighbourhood. In the latter attempt we again failed, the buoy having probably been swept away by the drift-ice; nor could we afterwards hit upon the exact spot where the attraction on the needles had been observed. The wind dying away when the ships were off the north-east end of the island, the boats were despatched to tow the whale on shore, while Captain Lyon and myself went a-head to meet some of the canoes that were paddling towards us. We soon joined eleven of them, and on our informing the Esquimaux of the prize the boats were bringing them, they paddled off with great delight. When they arrived at the spot, and had civilly asked permission to eat some of it, they dropped their canoes astern to the whale's tail, from which they cut off enormous lumps of flesh and ravenously devoured it; after which they followed our boats in-shore, where the carcass was made fast to a mass of grounded ice for their future disposal. In the mean time Captain Lyon and myself had rowed up to the station formerly occupied by the

tents, which however we now found wholly deserted by the natives, who had left only a sledge or two, and a quantity of blubber here and there under the stones before used for the tents.

A fresh breeze having sprung up from the southward, we stood off and on for the night, and on the 3th again made the ice, in which no change was perceptible. We hoped however that some service would be done us by the swell, though its effects would only be rendered apparent when the wind veered to the westward. This taking place on the following day, we had the satisfaction of seeing another large "patch," from one to two miles in width, separated from the fixed ice, and soon drifted out of sight to the south-east. As we made several tacks off the island next to the northward of Igloolik, called by the Esquimaux *Neerlo-Nackto*, two canoes came off to us, in one of which was Toolemak. He and his companions came on board the *Fury*, when I employed him for a couple of hours in drawing a chart of the strait. Toolemak,

though a sensible and intelligent man, we soon found to be no draftsman, so that his performance in this way, if taken alone, was not a very intelligible delineation of the coast. By dint however of a great deal of talking on his part, and some exercise of patience on ours, we at length obtained a copious verbal illustration of his sketch, which confirmed all our former accounts respecting the existence of a passage to the westward in this immediate neighbourhood, and the large extent of the land called Keiyuk-tarruoke on the northern side of the strait. The word *Khēmig* he applied either to the strait or to some place about its shores, as he had before done to Captain Lyon; but the weather was at this time unfortunately too thick to allow of his pointing out the exact direction in which this interesting spot lay. This piece of information was, just at the moment, desirable only as a matter of extreme curiosity and almost painful interest, as it was certain that the passage was at present inaccessible to ships on account of the ice. Toolemak also agreed with our

other Esquimaux informants in stating, that from the coast of Akkoolee no land is visible to the westward; nor was any ever heard of in that direction by the Esquimaux. This fact they uniformly assert with a whine of sorrow, meaning thereby to intimate that their knowledge and resources are there both at an end. Toolemak represented the coast of Keiyuk-Tarruoke as abounding with whales and narwhals, and repeatedly mentioned that icebergs were seen on its northern side, as before described by Okotook. The only actual addition to our former information was respecting some Esquimaux inhabiting an island of considerable size, at a great distance to the eastward or north-east. These people they call by the name of *Seäd-lër-mě-šo*, a general term by which they distinguish all Esquimaux not belonging to their own tribe, and of whom, with their accustomed self-conceit, they invariably speak with undisguised contempt. It is remarkable that even the natives of Southampton Island, notwithstanding their proximity to the continental coast, come

under this denomination; there being no intercourse whatever, as far as we could learn, between the two tribes.

The ships being close to the edge of the floe in the evening, I directed them to be made fast; but the boat that went to make holes for the ice-anchors returning with the information that the ice was in too "rotten" a state to hold them, we ran the ships into the floe under all sail, where they easily made a dock for themselves, and remained quietly for the night, which proved extremely fine and clear. A number of shrimps, *echini*, and other marine insects were brought up in a net from the bottom.

The disruption of the ice continued to proceed slowly, till early on the morning of the 14th; the breeze having freshened from the north-west, another floe broke away from the fixed ice, allowing us to gain about half a mile more to the westward; such was the vexatious slowness with which we were permitted to advance towards the object of our most anxious wishes! As, however, this disruption brought us so much nearer the

islands towards which I was about to travel, we cast off and beat up into the bight left by the floe.

My party consisted of Mr. Richards, and two men from each ship, and we were furnished with ten days' provision. Mr. Crozier, with three additional men, was appointed to assist in carrying our baggage to the first islands, and then to return on board. Having given Captain Lyon the necessary instructions for proceeding during my absence, and appointed the narrow part of the strait as a rendezvous in case of any sudden disruption of the ice allowing him to follow us, I left the ships at half-past one P.M., but had scarcely proceeded two hundred yards, when we found that a plank would form an indispensable part of our equipment, for the purpose of crossing the numerous pools and holes in the ice. Two planks of fir nailed together being speedily furnished from the ships, at two P.M. we finally took our departure.

Having soon gained the more solid floe before observed from the island, we found

its edge distinctly defined by a strait line of "hummocky" ice, where it was joined to the thinner floe occupying the stream of the strait; giving us the impression of its having been much longer formed than the other in consequence of being out of the tide-way, and affording by its comparative solidity very superior travelling. Being thus favoured, we made quick progress to the westward for seven or eight miles, when the holes and cracks began to increase in frequency and depth, and we were three hours in accomplishing the last mile and a half; the warmth reflected from the land, and the action of the tides in raising and depressing the ice, having here cracked, and partially detached it in many places. We landed at a quarter past nine P.M. after seven hours' walking, the direct distance from the ships not exceeding ten or eleven miles, and found it low water by the shore about ten o'clock.

The difficulty experienced in landing made me apprehensive lest Mr. Crozier and his party should not be able to get from the

island without the assistance of our bridge. I despatched him, however, at four A.M. on the 15th, and had the satisfaction to find that, being now unencumbered with loads, he and his men were able, by a circuitous route observed from the hills, to leap from one mass of ice to another and thus to gain the more solid floe. Having seen him thus far safely on his way, we crossed the island one-third of a mile to the westward, carrying the plank with slings from our shoulders, to prevent injuring it on the rocks. After passing over broken and detached ice for a mile and a quarter to the next island, which is a small one, we found it separated by a narrow channel of a hundred yards in width from a third and larger. After dining and resting an hour or two about noon, near the middle of this island, we arrived on its western shore at six in the evening, when the weather becoming misty we pitched the tent for the night. Between this and the next island was a large space entirely clear of ice, and here we observed a black whale sporting about: we also met

with two large deer and a fawn, but could not get near them. A long-tailed duck with three very young ones, and a pair or two of red-throated divers were swimming about in the ponds. The former served us as a supper, the *andromeda tetragona* and ground-willow furnishing fuel for cooking them. A pair of ravens, one or two silvery gulls, and a few snow-buntings were all we saw besides.

Heavy snow continued to fall during the night, rendering the atmosphere too thick to allow us to see our way till half-past nine A.M. on the 16th, when we struck the tent, and set out upon the ice, which we now found better for travelling than before, consisting of a level floe, intersected only by numberless pools not more than knee-deep, and with their bottom generally strong enough to allow us to wade through them. Proceeding along the southern side of the land on which the remarkable hill before-mentioned is situated, and which I now named MOUNT SABINE, out of respect to MR. JOSEPH SABINE, we halted at noon a

mile and a half due south of it, and observed the lat. $69^{\circ} 37' 40''$; and then continuing our journey landed at two P.M. to dine and rest. Serjeant Wise here shot a hare of a remarkably dark colour on the upper part of the body, and particularly about the ears, but quite white underneath. Two or three ring-plovers were also seen.

We moved again at half-past four; and at a mile and a half in a W.b.N. $\frac{1}{2}$ N. direction, arrived at the extreme point of the island, and crossed the ice about a hundred yards to the next. Traversing this also, we then walked a mile and a half, with the assistance of the plank, which it frequently required extreme caution not to break, over loose and even drifting ice to the next, on which we halted for the night at eight P.M., after a day's journey of no great length, but attended with much wet and fatigue. The snow, which fell at intervals during the day, was succeeded in the evening by rain and fog, which continued very thick till six A.M. on the 17th, when we resumed our journey across the island;

and after deeper wading than usual in reaching the ice, at length set forward upon it, and at nine o'clock landed on a small island in a S.W.b.W. direction. The sun now making its appearance, and the whole of our clothes and baggage being wet, I determined to remain here a few hours to dry them, which we were soon enabled to do, the wind shifting to the N.W., and quickly dissipating the fog and clouds. The warmth of the sun seemed not more agreeable and invigorating to us than to the other inhabitants of the island. These consisted only of numerous large mosquitoes, which, though in a torpid state before, now commenced their attacks, and continued to annoy us during the rest of our stay. Their sting, however, certainly produced, in this climate, much less inflammation than is usual in a warmer one, though I do not know how much of this difference is to be attributed to the man, and how much to the mosquito.

The islands over which we had lately passed, and which, at the request of Mr.

Richards, I named the BOUVERIE ISLANDS, rise from two to six hundred feet above the sea, with deep water quite close to their shores. They consist principally of dark coloured gneiss-rock, the strata of which, in all the instances where I had an opportunity of examining them, dipped to the northward or north-west. There are also on some of the islands considerable tracts where the rocks exhibited a schistose structure, the loose slaty fragments, which I took to be mica-slate, varying from near a perpendicular to an almost horizontal direction, and indifferently as to the direction of their dip. On one island only, being that on which the three deer were seen, the outer ends of these slaty fragments were covered with a thin superficial coating of a verdigris-green substance, extending a foot or two along the surface in different places, and giving the rock the singular appearance of having been painted that colour. None of the fragments were thus tinged in any part but their outer ends, nor could I find any other substance

in the same neighbourhood exhibiting a similar appearance.

After obtaining the meridian altitude, which gave the lat. $69^{\circ} 37' 55''$, we left the island, and directed our course across the ice to the N.W., towards a low part of the land. On reaching this spot, which proved to be an isthmus scarcely fifty yards in breadth, and ascending the first eminence, we had every reason to be satisfied with our route, being now enabled to perceive that we had in all probability reached the main land; the ice lately crossed being that of a spacious bay to the south, which I named after my fellow-traveller MR. RICHARDS, and the sea to the northward, between us and the high land of Keiyuk-tarruoke bearing evident marks of our approach to the supposed strait. The ice was here entirely broken up and in motion to the eastward, and in many places about the northern shore there was abundance of open water. Being satisfied that we could now perform the remainder of our journey by land, I determined to leave the plank

and a portion of our provisions at this spot, and to make a forced march for the strait as lightly equipped as possible. We here, for the first time, found the rocks to be composed of red granite, a circumstance we hailed with satisfaction at the time, as Captain Lyon had met with a similar formation at the extent of his journey to the westward. It was high water by the shore at about seven in the evening.

At two o'clock on the morning of the 18th, the weather being extremely fine and clear, we rose with the sun; and after depositing our spare stores within a heap of stones, left the isthmus, and directed our course over the hills to the westward, which consist partly of greyish gneiss and partly of red granite, some of them rising at least a thousand or twelve hundred feet above the level of the sea. These being in some places extremely steep, with numberless loose fragments lying about, which only required the foot to be set upon them to give them motion down the precipice, we were for some time obliged to proceed

with much caution. At half-past five, however, we had arrived at a peninsula which promised to prove of high interest, for it appeared to lead to the very spot where, from the set of the tide and the trending of the coast, the strait was most likely to be found; and it presented at the same time a geological character differing from any we had before met with. The appearance of the southern or inner part of this peninsula is singular, being that of three or more nearly horizontal and equidistant ranges or strata, resembling at a distance so many tiers or galleries of a high and commanding fortification, which seemed to defy approach. On reaching this place, where two long and deep ponds of fresh water serve to contract still more the narrow isthmus by which it is divided from the other land, we found the rocks composed of a brownish-red sandstone in numerous alternate strata of darker and lighter shades, though three or four only of these were conspicuous at a distance.

We now turned nearly due north, and,

after passing over a mile and a half of rocky country, we arrived at about seven A.M. at the ultimate object of our journey, the extreme northern point of the peninsula, overlooking the narrowest part of the desired strait, which lay immediately below us in about an east and west direction, being two miles in width, apparently very deep, and with a tide or current, of at least two knots, setting the loose ice through to the eastward. Beyond us, to the west, the shores again separated to the distance of several leagues; and for more than three points of the compass, in that direction, no land could be seen to the utmost limits of a clear horizon, except one island six or seven miles distant. Over this we could not entertain a doubt of having discovered the Polar Sea; and loaded as it was with ice, we already felt as if we were on the point of forcing our way through it along the northern shores of America.

After despatching one of our party to the foot of the point for some of the sea water, which was found extremely salt to the taste, we hailed the interesting event of the morn-

ing by three hearty cheers and by a small extra allowance of grog to our people, to drink a safe and speedy passage through the channel just discovered, which I ventured to name by anticipation, **THE STRAIT OF THE FURY AND HECLA**. Having built a pile of stones upon the promontory, which, from its situation with respect to the Continent of America, I called **CAPE NORTH-EAST**, we walked back to our tent and baggage, these having, for the sake of greater expedition, been left two miles behind; and, after resting a few hours set out at three P.M. on our return. To save ourselves the fatigue of re-ascending the craggy and precipitous mountain land passed over in the morning, we struck through some ravines and valleys more to the southward, which, however, led us so far out of our way, without much improving the road, that we did not reach our depôt till a quarter past seven in the evening, after a circuitous journey of fourteen or fifteen miles. This walk, however, subsequently proved

of service in pointing out the route by which another object might be attained.

We reached the ships on our return at 10 o'clock P.M. on Tuesday the 20th. On almost all the shores both of the main land and islands that we visited, some traces of the Esquimaux were found; but they were less numerous than in any other places on which we had hitherto landed. This circumstance rather seemed to intimate, as we afterwards found to be the case, that the shores of the strait and its immediate neighbourhood are not a frequent resort of the natives during the summer months.

My return was very opportune, for at the very time of our crossing the lane of water as mentioned above, the ice was in the act of opening out, and continued to do so for the rest of the night; so that on the morning of the 21st the ships were nearly in clear water, while the weather became so thick in an hour after our arrival, that we could scarcely see a quarter of a mile for two days afterwards.

We got under weigh on the 21st, were off Cape North-East on the 26th, and I gave the name of CAPE OSSORY to the eastern point of the northern land of the Narrows; but on that day, after clearing two dangerous shoals and again deepening our soundings, we had begun to indulge the most flattering hopes of now making such a rapid progress as would in some degree compensate for all our delays and disappointments, when, at once to crush every expectation of this sort, it was suddenly announced from the crow's-nest that another barrier of *fixed* ice stretched completely across the strait, a little beyond us, in one continuous and impenetrable field, still occupying its winter-station. In less than an hour we had reached its margin, when, finding this report but too correct and that therefore all further progress was at present as impracticable as if no strait existed, we ran the ships under all sail for the floe, which proved so "rotten" and decayed that the ships forced themselves three or four hundred yards through it before they

stopped. Keeping all our canvass spread, we then tried to break the thin edges about the numerous holes by dropping weights over the bows, as well as by various other equally ineffectual expedients; but the ice was "tough" enough to resist every effort of this kind, though its watery state was such as to increase if possible our annoyance at being stopped by it. The passage to the northward of the island was not even so clear as this by above two miles of ice, so that in every respect our present route was to be preferred to the other; and thus after a vexatious delay of six weeks at the eastern entrance of the strait, and at a time when we had every reason to hope that nature, though hitherto tardy in her annual disruption of the ice, had at length made an effort to complete it, did we find our progress once more opposed by a barrier of the same continuous, impenetrable, and hopeless nature as at first!

In the evening of the 28th, finding the weather not likely to improve, and that the situation of the ships, if kept under way

during the night in this narrow and unknown channel, must be a very dangerous one, we bore up to make the island, in the hope of finding shelter under one of its numerous low points. In this last resource we were not disappointed; for in an hour's run we made the island, which was now so covered with snow as to be easily mistaken for a floe of ice without great attention to the leads; and with a degree of good fortune which has never yet deserted us in such cases, we succeeded in picking out an excellent anchorage in eleven fathoms, where we passed a thick, snowy, and dark night, without any disturbance from wind or ice.

As soon as the anchors were dropped, my attention was once more turned to the main object of the Expedition, from which it had for a moment been diverted by the necessity of exerting every effort for the immediate safety of the ships. This being now provided for, I had leisure to consider in what manner, hampered as the ships were by the present state of the ice, our means

and exertions might during this unavoidable detention be employed to the greatest advantage, or at least with the best prospect of ultimate utility.

Whatever doubts might at a distance have been entertained respecting the identity, or the contrary, of the place visited by Captain Lyon with that subsequently discovered by myself, there could be none on a nearer view; as, independently of the observed latitude, Captain Lyon could not, on approaching the narrows, recognise a single feature of the land; our present channel being evidently a much wider and more extensive one than that pointed out by Toolemak on the journey. It became, therefore, a matter of interest, now that this point was settled, and our progress again stopped by an insuperable obstacle, to ascertain the extent and communication of the southern inlet; and, should it prove a second strait, to watch the breaking up of the ice about its eastern entrance, that no favourable opportunity might be missed of pushing through it to the westward. Hi-

therto, as I have before remarked, the question respecting the existence of a second passage, had been wholly unimportant as concerned the movements of the Expedition, because we could see, at the time of our entering the present strait, that the only possible track to the other was blocked by solid and continuous ice. The mortifying prospect however of a second detention in this strait, added to the consideration of the sudden changes that often take place in the state of the ice, rendered it again necessary to revert to the southern inlet, to which, but a few days before, we had ceased to attach any importance. I therefore determined to despatch three separate parties, to satisfy all doubts in that quarter, as well as to gain every possible information as to the length of the strait, and the extent of the fixed ice, now more immediately before us.

With this view, I requested Captain Lyon to take with him Mr. Griffiths and four men, and proceed over land in a S.b.E. direction till he should determine by the

difference of latitude, which amounted only to sixteen miles, whether there was or was not a strait leading to the westward, about the parallel of $69^{\circ} 26'$, being nearly that in which the place called by the Esquimaux *Khemig* had been found by observation to lie. This appeared a simple and effectual method of deciding a question, on which the operations of the Expedition might ultimately depend. In the mean time, Lieutenant Palmer was directed to proceed in a boat to Igloolik, or Neerlo-nakto, as might be necessary, to ascertain whether the passage leading towards *Khemig* was yet clear of ice; and, should he find any one of the Esquimaux willing to accompany him to the ships with his canoe, to bring him on board as a pilot. The third party consisted of Mr. Bushnan, with three men, under the command of Lieutenant Reid, who was instructed to proceed along the continental coast to the westward, to gain as much information as possible respecting the termination of our present strait, the time of his return to the ships being limited to four

days, at the expiration of which the other two parties might also be expected to reach us.

By this arrangement, in which the connexion of each expedition with the others, and that of the whole with our main object, will easily be perceived, I hoped to gain such information as would either confirm my determination to continue our efforts in the present station of the ships, or point out, beyond any doubt, the expediency of transferring them to some other quarter. Having gone on board the *Hecla* to communicate my views and intentions to Captain Lyon, I directed every thing to be in readiness for despatching the parties at noon on the following day.

On the morning of the 29th, the wind being light from the eastward, but the weather much more clear than before, we weighed and stood over to the main-land with the intention of putting our travellers on shore, but found that coast now so lined with the ice which had lately broken adrift, that it was not possible for a boat to ap-

proach it. We could not help at this time congratulating ourselves on the fortunate escape we had experienced, in not having already cut any distance into the floe before it separated; for in such a case it would hardly have been possible to escape driving on shore with it. Standing off to the westward, to see what service the late disruption had done us, we found that a considerable floe had separated, exactly in a line between the island off which we lay and a second to the westward of it, subsequently named, at Lieutenant Hoppner's request, in honour of LORD AMHERST. Tacking at the newly-formed margin of the fixed ice, we observed, not only that it was still firmly attached to the shores, but that it was now almost entirely "hummocky," and heavier than any we had seen since making Igloodik; some of the hummocks, as we afterwards found, measuring from eight to ten feet above the surface of the sea.

The different character now assumed by the ice, while it certainly damped our hopes of the passage being cleared this season by

the gradual effect of dissolution, confirmed however, in a very satisfactory manner, the belief of our being in a broad channel communicating with a western sea. As the conclusions we immediately drew from this circumstance may not be so obvious to others, I shall here briefly explain that, from the manner in which the hummocky floes are formed, it is next to impossible that any of these of considerable extent can ever be produced in a mere inlet having a narrow communication with the sea. There is in fact no ice to which the denomination of "sea-ice" may be more strictly and exclusively applied than this; and we therefore felt confident that the immense floes which now opposed our progress, must have come from the sea on one side or the other; while the current, which we had observed to run in an easterly direction in the narrows of this strait, precluded the possibility of such ice having found its way in from that quarter. The only remaining conclusion was, that it must have been set into the strait from the westward towards

the close of a summer, and cemented in its present situation by the frost of the succeeding winter.

Standing back towards the eastern island, which I named after my friend and late companion in these regions, CAPTAIN MATTHEW LIDDON of the Royal Navy, and finding the shore quite clear of ice, we dropped our anchors under its lee in twelve fathoms, on a muddy bottom, at the distance of half a mile from the beach. We had scarcely secured the ships, however, when some large masses of heavy drift-ice began to set toward us, and several of these successively coming in contact with the Fury's bows and cable, I directed the anchors to be immediately weighed again, rather than run any risk of damage to them; and sailing over to the fixed ice, made our hawsers fast to it and lay securely for the night.

A great deal of snow having fallen in the last two days, scarcely a dark patch was now to be seen on any part of the land, so that the prospect at daylight on the 30th

was as comfortless as can well be imagined for the parties who were just about to find their way among the rocks and precipices. Soon after four A.M., however, when we had ascertained that the drift-ice was no longer lying in their way, they were all despatched in their different directions. For each of the land-parties a depôt of several days' provision and fuel was, in case of accidents, established on the beach; and Lieutenant Palmer took in his boat a supply for nine days.

The fact of our never having seen a stream of tide or current setting through the narrows of the strait in any direction but to the eastward, made it an object of curiosity to ascertain, by observation on the spot during at least two consecutive tides, whether or not a permanent current existed there. I determined therefore on despatching Mr. Crozier on this service; and the absence of so many of our people necessarily limiting our means, his establishment only consisted of the small nine-feet boat and two marines, with which he left us un-

der sail at one P.M., being provisioned for four days. I directed Mr. Crozier to land and pitch his tent somewhere about Cape North-East, and after carefully observing the tides, both on shore and in the offing, for the whole of one day, immediately to return to the ships. The weather improving as the day advanced, a good deal of snow disappeared from the islands, but little or none on the rugged high land of the continent.

On the 31st, the wind blew fresh and cold from the north-west, which caused a quantity of ice to separate from the fixed floe in small pieces during the day, and drift past the ships. Early in the morning, a she-bear and her two cubs were observed floating down on one of these masses, and coming close to the Hecla were all killed. The female proved remarkably small, two or three men being able to lift her into a boat. A large party of us from each ship passed several hours on shore at Liddon Island, in examining its natural productions.

At half-past nine on the morning of the 1st of September, one of our parties was descried at the appointed rendezvous on shore, which, on our sending a boat to bring them on board, proved to be Captain Lyon and his people. From their early arrival we were in hopes that some decisive information had at length been obtained; and our disappointment may therefore be imagined, in finding that, owing to insuperable obstacles on the road, he had not been able to advance above five or six miles to the southward, and that with excessive danger and fatigue, owing to the depth of the snow, and the numerous lakes and precipices.

Being thus by a combination of untoward circumstances baffled in an endeavour which had appeared almost certain of success, we had only to await with patience the arrival of our other parties; scarcely however venturing to hope that their information alone could prove of any great interest or importance in furthering our main object. The north-west wind fresh-

ening almost to a gale, which made me somewhat apprehensive for Mr. Crozier and his little establishment at the Narrows, I despatched Mr. Ross, at seven this evening, to carry him a fresh supply of provisions and to assist him on his return to the ship. At the same time I directed Mr. Ross to occupy the following day in examining the portion of land forming the northern shore of the Narrows, which we had some reason to suppose insular.

At nine A.M. on the 2d, Lieutenant Reid and his party were descried at their landing-place, and a boat being sent for them, arrived on board at half-past eleven. He reported that the ice seemed to extend from Amherst Island as far as they could see to the westward, presenting one unbroken surface from the north to the south shore of the strait.

Notwithstanding every exertion on the part of our travellers, their labours had not thrown much light on the geography of this part of the coast, nor added any information that could be of practical use in di-

recting the operations of the ships. The important question respecting a second passage leading to the westward still remained as much a matter of mere conjecture as at first; while the advanced period of the season, and the unpromising appearance of the ice now opposing our progress, rendered it more essential than ever that this point should, if possible, be fully decided. Under this impression it occurred to me, that the desired object might possibly be accomplished by pursuing the route along the head or western shore of Richards' Bay, part of which I had already traversed on my former journey, and found it much less laborious walking than that experienced by Captain Lyon on the higher and more rugged mountains inland. I determined, therefore, to make this attempt, taking with me Mr. Richards and most of my former companions, and proceeding in a boat as far as the isthmus mentioned on the 17th of August, from whence our journey might at once be advantageously commenced.

This night proved the coldest we had experienced during the present season, and the thermometer stood at 24° when I left the ships at four A.M. on the 3d, having previously directed Captain Lyon to remain as near their present station as might be consistent with safety, and carefully to watch for any alteration that might occur in the western ice. I also requested Captain Lyon to render Mr. Fisher every assistance in his power in the trigonometrical measurement of some high snow-capped hills to the north-west, which at my desire he had undertaken. To the land on which these mountains stand, and which the Esquimaux call *Keiyuk-tarruoke*, I gave the name of COCKBURN ISLAND, in honour of VICE ADMIRAL SIR GEORGE COCKBURN, one of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, whose warm personal interest in every thing relating to Northern Discovery can only be surpassed by the public zeal with which he has always promoted it.

Being favoured by a strong north-westerly breeze, we reached the narrows at

half-past six A.M., and immediately encountered a race or ripple, so heavy and dangerous, that it was only by carrying a press of canvass on the boat that we succeeded in keeping the seas from constantly breaking into her. This rippling appeared to be occasioned by the sudden obstruction which the current meets at the western mouth of the narrows, aided in the present instance, by the strong breeze that blew directly upon the corner forming the entrance on the south side. On clearing this, which we did after running about one-third of a mile, and then getting into smooth water, though the current was running at least three knots to the eastward, the thoughts of all our party were, by one common impulse, directed towards Mr. Crozier and his little boat, which could not possibly have lived in the sea we had just encountered. It was not, therefore, without the most serious apprehension on his account that I landed at Cape North-East, where I had directed the observations to be made on the tides; and sending Mr. Richards

one way along the shore, proceeded myself along the other to look for him. On firing a musket, after a quarter of an hour's walk, I had the indescribable satisfaction of seeing Mr. Crozier make his appearance from behind a rock, where he was engaged in watching the tide-mark. I found him and his party quite safe and well, though they had encountered no small danger, while attempting to try the velocity of the stream in the narrows, being beset by a quantity of drift-ice, from which they with difficulty escaped to the shore. I found also that Mr. Ross, after towing them in when adrift, and leaving Mr. Crozier his provisions, had proceeded to accomplish his other object, appointing a place to meet them on his return to the ships. In half an hour after we saw the gig crossing to us under sail, and were soon joined by Mr. Ross, who informed me that he had determined the insularity of the northern land, which I therefore distinguished by the name of ORMOND ISLAND, out of respect to the EARL OF ORMOND AND OSSORY.

Having furnished our gentlemen with an additional supply of provisions, in case of their being unavoidably detained by the continuance of the wind, I made sail for the isthmus at ten A.M., where we arrived after an hour's run, and hauling the boat up on the rocks, and depositing the greater part of our stores near her, set off at one P.M. along the shore of Richards' Bay, being equipped with only three days' provision, and as small a weight of clothing as possible. The coast, though not bad for travelling, led us so much more to the westward than I expected, in consequence of its numerous indentations, that, after above five hours' hard walking, we had only made good a W.S.W. course, direct distance six miles. One of our men then complaining of giddiness and other unpleasant symptoms, we halted, and pitched the tents amidst rugged and barren rocks of red granite, dreary and desolate beyond description. A single snow-bunting was literally all we saw of animal life during this afternoon's walk; but the tracks of deer,

all going to the southward, were everywhere seen upon the snow. We obtained on every eminence a distinct view of the ice the whole way down to Neerlo-nakto, in which space not a drop of clear water was discernible; the whole of Richards' Bay was filled with ice as before.

We moved at six P.M. on the 4th, and soon came to a number of lakes from half a mile to two miles in length, occurring in chains of three or four together, round which we had to walk, at the expense of much time and labour. All these terminated towards the sea in inlets, one of which, that we came to at nine A.M., and which I named after MR. HALSE of the *Fury*, was three or four miles in length, and detained us two hours in walking round the head of it. These inlets were still filled with ice of the last winter's formation, except close round the shores, where a narrow space of open water had been formed by the warmth of the land. We halted at a quarter past eleven, having made good four miles and a half in a S.b.W.

direction, and found ourselves by observation at noon in latitude $69^{\circ} 32' 58''$. Continuing our journey at three P.M., we soon arrived at the shores of another inlet like the former, two or three miles in length, up which we had to walk above two before we could make any southing. We were then, for the first time, enabled to proceed almost directly to the southward, our only interruption being occasioned by the numerous steep and craggy hills which everywhere presented themselves. At half-past five we suddenly came in sight of a high and remarkably level piece of table-land immediately to the southward of us, and extending for several miles in an east and west direction. Along the upper part ran a narrow perpendicular ridge having a dark appearance, and the rest formed a yellow shelving slope, as if composed of the *debris* falling uniformly from above. At half-past six, on gaining a sight of the sea from the top of a hill, we immediately recognised to the eastward the numerous islands of red granite described by Captain Lyon; and

now perceived, what had before been surmised, that the south shore of Richards' Bay formed the northern coast of the inlet, up which his journey with the Esquimaux had been pursued. Our latitude, by account from noon, being now $69^{\circ} 28'$, we felt confident that a short walk directly to the south must bring us to any strait communicating with that inlet, and we therefore pushed on in confident expectation of being near our journey's end. At seven P.M., leaving the men to pitch the tent in a sheltered valley, Mr. Richards and myself ascended the hill that rose beyond it, and on reaching its summit found ourselves overlooking a long and narrow arm of the sea communicating with the inlet before seen to the eastward, and appearing to extend several miles nearly in an east and west direction, or parallel to the table-land before described, from which it is distant three or four miles. The space between the creek and the table-land is quite low, forming a striking contrast with the rugged shore on which we stood, and being co-

vered with abundant vegetation, as well as intersected by numerous ponds of water. The breadth of the little creek at the place at which we had arrived, being half a mile above its junction with the wider inlet in which the Coxe Islands lie, is about half a mile, and continues nearly the same for three or four miles that we could trace it in a westerly direction. Beyond this it seemed to turn more northerly, and our view being obstructed by the high and rugged hills, of which, on the north side of the creek, the whole tract of country is composed, I determined to pursue our journey along its banks in the morning, to ascertain its further extent, or at least to trace it till it was no longer navigable for ships. That the creek we now overlooked was a part of the same arm of the sea which Captain Lyon had visited, the latitude, the bearings of Igloolik, which was now plainly visible, and the number and appearance of the Coxe Islands, which were too remarkable to be mistaken, all concurred in assuring us; and it only, therefore, remained

for us to determine whether it would furnish a passage for the ships. Having made all the remarks which the lateness of the evening would permit, we descended to the tent at dusk, being directed by a cheerful blazing fire of the *andromeda tetragona*, which in its present dry state served as excellent fuel for warming our provisions.

Setting forward at five A.M. on the 5th, along some pleasant valleys covered with grass and other vegetation, and the resort of numerous rein-deer, we walked six or seven miles in a direction parallel to that of the creek; when, finding the latter considerably narrowed, and the numerous low points of its south shore rendering the water too shoal, to all appearance, even for the navigation of a sloop of ten tons, I determined to waste no more time in the further examination of so insignificant a place. There was not in this creek the least perceptible stream of tide or current, which circumstance alone, considering the strength of that which rushes through the Strait of the Fury and Hecla, would have been sufficient

perhaps to demonstrate that it had no outlet to the westward. Its whole appearance indeed indicated it to be what it has since proved, a mere inlet of the sea, similar to those we had before passed, communicating with lakes and streams which annually pour their waters into it, affording excellent *kayak* navigation to the Esquimaux, and supplying them with the salmon with which they had lately provided us. The farther we went to the westward the higher the hills became; and the commanding prospect thus afforded enabled us distinctly to perceive with a glass that, though the ice had become entirely dissolved in the creek, and for half a mile below it, the whole sea beyond this to the eastward, even as far as Igloolik, was covered with one continuous and unbroken floe.

Having now completely satisfied myself, that, as respected both ice and land, there was no navigable passage for ships about this latitude, no time was lost in setting out on our return.

At half-past eight we arrived on board,

where I was happy to find that all our parties had returned without accident, except that Lieutenant Palmer had been wounded in his hand and temporarily blinded, by a gun accidentally going off, from which however he fortunately suffered no eventual injury. Lieut. Palmer reported his having ascertained that the ice still remained attached to the land from the western part of Igloodik across to the continent, precluding all possibility of a passage to the westward in that direction. Lieutenant Palmer's report contained numerous observations for the geographical positions of the parts of the land which he visited, and some notices respecting the Esquimaux mode of burial.

The result of our late endeavours, necessarily cramped as they had been, was to confirm, in the most satisfactory manner, the conviction, that we were now in the only passage leading to the westward that existed in this neighbourhood. There was, and indeed, still is, reason to believe, from the information of the Esquimaux, that Cockburn Island extends two degrees to the

northward, and very considerably to the eastward of this Strait. To have abandoned without further trial, the most promising place, as respects the North-West Passage, that the most sanguine mind could hope to discover, upon the chance of saving time by pursuing a circuitous route of perhaps three or four hundred miles of unknown coast, and of finding a more navigable passage two degrees farther north, I should have considered an unjustifiable departure from the plain tenor of my instructions, if not a direct abandonment of the cause in which we were engaged. Notwithstanding, therefore, the present unpromising appearance of the ice, I had no alternative left me but patiently to await its disruption, and instantly to avail myself of any alteration that nature might yet effect in our favour.

CHAPTER XII.

A Journey performed along the south shore of Cockburn Island—Confirmation of an outlet to the Polar Sea—Partial disruption of the old ice, and formation of new—Return through the narrows to the eastward—Proceed to examine the coast to the north-eastward—Fury's anchor broken—Stand over to Igloolik to look for winter-quarters—Excursion to the head of Quilliam Creek—Ships forced to the westward by gales of wind—A canal sawed through the ice, and the ships secured in their winter station—Continued visits of the Esquimaux, and arrival of some of the Winter-Island tribe—proposed plan of operations in the ensuing spring.

A LIGHT air springing up from the eastward on the morning of the 8th, we took advantage of it to run up to the margin of the fixed ice, which was now perhaps half a mile farther to the westward, in consequence of small pieces being occasionally

detached from it, than it had been when we tacked off it ten days before. We here made fast nearly in a line between Amherst and Liddon Islands, though much nearer to the former, and in fifty-eight fathoms, on a soft muddy bottom.

The pools on the floes were now also so hardly frozen, that skating and sliding were going on upon them the whole day, though but a week before it had been dangerous to venture upon them.

This latter circumstance, together with the fineness of the weather, and the tempting appearance of the shore of Cockburn Island, which seemed better calculated for travelling than any that we had seen, combined to induce me to despatch another party to the westward, with the hope of increasing, by the only means within our reach, our knowledge of the lands and sea in that direction. Lieutenant Reid and Mr. Bushnan were once more selected for that service, to be accompanied by eight men, a large number being preferred, because by this means only is it practicable to accom-

plish a tolerably long journey, especially on account of the additional weight of warm clothing which the present advanced state of the season rendered indispensable. Lieutenant Reid was furnished with six days' provisions, and directed to land where most practicable on the northern shore, and thence to pursue his journey to the westward as far as his resources would admit, gaining all possible information that might be useful or interesting. Every arrangement being made, the party was held in readiness to leave the ships at daylight the following morning.

Our travellers were favoured by another summer's day on the 10th, not a breath of wind stirring, and the atmosphere being extremely clear and free from clouds. Mr. Henderson being sent to Amherst Island to examine the ice along its northern shore, where we first hoped to see some alteration, reported on his return, that he had observed a crack extending from the western end of the island across towards the northern shore of the strait, which we hoped might form a

new line of separation just about to take place. In the evening two of Lieutenant Reid's party returned on board with a note, informing me that one of the men being taken ill, that officer had judged it prudent immediately to send him back with one of his shipmates to take care of him.

Just before daylight on the 13th, the floe suddenly broke between the two ships, and we were for some time in hopes that a general change was about to take place in our favour, as we could soon after perceive a good deal of open water immediately to the westward of the ice, to which the ships were attached. We found, however, as the day broke, that no alteration had taken place near us, but a separation of a considerable mass near the island, leaving no passage whatever into the open water seen beyond. The Hecla, happening to be fast to the broken mass, was obliged to make all sail, to stem a current that carried her with it some distance to the eastward. So far, however, was this current from being perceptible on or near the surface, that, on

making several trials, a superficial set, occasioned by an easterly breeze, was uniformly found *in an opposite direction*.

The latitude of our present station was $69^{\circ} 48' 10''$; the longitude, by chronometers, $83^{\circ} 29' 27''$; the variation of the magnetic needle $89^{\circ} 18' 19''$; and the dip, as obtained by Mr. Fisher, $88^{\circ} 21' 21''$. The view of the strait from this position was calculated to impress us with the idea of its being a magnificent passage into the Polar Sea, especially on one of the clear and cloudless days which we had late enjoyed. One of the most striking features of this truly polar landscape is that which is presented by the snow-capped mountains of Cockburn Island, to the north-west of the ships, the highest of which Mr. Fisher determined, by accurate trigonometrical measurement, to be one thousand four hundred and forty-seven feet above the level of the sea. The tops of these mountains have a smoothly-rounded outline; and as they were covered with snow for about one-fourth downwards from their summits, as

early as the 18th of August, when we first discovered them from the narrows, it is probable that they had been so during the whole summer. To the eastward of these the land becomes much more rugged, though considerable lower; and in every part there appeared to be a space of shelving ground next the sea, like that over which Lieutenant Reid was now pursuing his journey.

The appearance of Amherst Island also is remarkable, on account of the materials of which it is composed, which, unless covered with snow, present an aspect singularly dark, and affording a striking contrast with the surrounding lands. It was curious, indeed, to observe, that, as if determined to preserve this singularity, the snow was always first dissolved upon this island, which, even on some very cold days, contrived to throw off its fleecy mantle when no other shore was uncovered, which circumstance may perhaps be in part attributed to the colour, as well as to the other qualities of the rocks.

On the 14th, while an easterly breeze continued, the water increased very much in breadth to the westward of the fixed floe to which we were attached; several lanes opening out, and leaving in some places a channel not less than three miles in width. At two P.M., the wind, suddenly shifting to the westward, closed up every open space in the course of a few hours, leaving not a drop of water in sight from the mast-head in that direction. To this, however, we had no objection; for being now certain that the ice was at liberty to move in the western part of the strait, we felt confident that if once our present narrow barrier were also detached, the ordinary changes of wind and tide would inevitably afford us opportunities of making progress. When a body of ice has once broken from the land, and found some room to move about, the case is seldom a hopeless one; but the kind of *hermetical-sealing*, which we had lately witnessed, leaves, while it lasts, no resource but patience and watchfulness. The westerly wind was accompanied by fine snow,

which continued during the night, rendering the weather extremely thick, and our situation consequently very precarious, should the ice give way during the hours of darkness.

The recent separation of the ice to the westward, while it kept alive our hopes of soon proceeding on our way, made us also at this moment somewhat apprehensive lest Lieutenant Reid, and his party, might, in their return to the ships, be caught upon it while it was adrift, and escape our observation during the thick weather, or in the night. It was, therefore, with great satisfaction, that, at four P.M., on the 15th, we discovered our travellers upon the ice. A fresh party being despatched to meet and to relieve them of their knapsacks, Lieutenant Reid arrived safely on board at seven P.M., having, by a quick and most satisfactory journey, ascertained the immediate junction of the Strait of the Fury and Hecla with the Polar Sea. Lieutenant Reid's account, which is here subjoined, was accompanied by an accurate plan of the strait,

drawn by Mr. Bushan, and constructed by a series of triangles, extending considerably to the eastward of the narrows, and thence carried on to Igloodik.

LIEUTENANT REID'S ACCOUNT.

“ At daylight on the 10th, the weather being remarkably fine, I left the Fury with my party, and, on our journey towards the land, found the walking extremely good, the late frost having filled up all the holes and pools upon the ice. After the first four miles, the character of the ice changed from the rough and ‘ hummocky ’ kind, to a smooth level floe, and this continued the whole way to the land, except that in its immediate neighbourhood it was much broken up and detached ; which occasioned us much difficulty, and some wetting in getting to the beach. One of the Hecla’s men having been taken ill about this time, I determined to send him back to the ships without delay, and directed one of his shipmates to accompany and take care of him.

This reduction of our number considerably increasing the loads of the rest of the party, one day's provision was deposited at the landing-place, and with the remainder we set out to the westward.

"From one till four P.M., we walked nine miles over excellent ground for travelling, and then obtained sights for the chronometer, giving the longitude $83^{\circ} 58' 30''$; after which we again moved forward, and having advanced six miles in a direction a little to the northward of west, halted and pitched the tent for the night. The land over which we had this day travelled is principally composed of sandstone, with here and there a piece of granite. In the course of the day we passed the stones of an Esquimaux summer habitation, arranged as usual in a circular form, but it did not appear of recent date. The ice in the strait still presented the same unbroken surface as that seen from the ships, except quite close in-shore, where it was detached by the action of the tides. We also observed a few narrow lanes of water here and there,

running into the floe, but they extended only a short distance from the land.

" At five A.M. on the 11th, we re-commenced our walk to the westward, and at seven came to a ravine with a rapid run of water, which we crossed after a little detention, and stopped to breakfast one mile to the westward of it. Again proceeding at nine o'clock, we continued our walk till noon, when we halted to obtain the meridian altitude, which gave the latitude $70^{\circ} 00' 05''$, and soon after setting forward again, pitched our tent for the night at half-past six P.M., our day's journey being estimated at thirteen miles in $W.\frac{1}{2}N.$ direction. We could here perceive that the opposite or main land gradually trended to the southward, leaving a broad entrance into the Western Sea, though covered with even and apparently unbroken ice. The weather being clear afforded us an extensive prospect to the westward, and we could now perceive that a bluff near the north shore, which had before appeared insular, formed in reality the northern point

of the entrance, and I named it CAPE HALLOWELL, out of respect to Vice-Admiral Sir Benjamin Hallowell. This head-land was joined to Cockburn Island by a piece of low land not visible at any great distance, and receding considerably so as to form a fine bay, which I named after CAPTAIN WILLIAM AUTRIDGE, of the Royal Navy. To the southward of Cape Hallowell are several small rocky islets, and near these, as well as in every other part of the entrance of the strait, the ice presented the same unbroken appearance as before.

“ At half-past five A.M. on the 12th, we again set forward, and continuing our walk till nine o'clock, pitched the tent upon a rising ground, from whence we commanded a good view around us, and being near the entrance of an inlet running up to the north-eastward. The opening of the strait into the Polar Sea was now so decided, that I considered the principal object of my journey accomplished; but being desirous of obtaining observations at this spot, and the

weather being cloudy, I determined on remaining a few hours for that purpose. In the mean time, Mr. Bushnan and myself walked up the banks of the inlet, which I named after my friend MR. THOMAS WHYTE, and found it to extend five or six miles in a north-east direction, its general breadth being from a mile to a mile and a half. At the head of the inlet we found two ravines running into it; and the vegetation was here more abundant than any I had seen during the voyage. We saw also the remains of two Esquimaux huts, which were old, and appeared to have been winter habitations.

“The sky being still clouded on the morning of the 13th, we set out on our return to the eastward, from which quarter the wind soon after freshened up, with constant snow and sleet. At one P.M. on the 14th, we reached our landing-place, when we found that a great alteration had taken place in the state of the ice, there being now a considerable lane of water running off in the direction of the ships, while near

the shore some pressure appeared to have taken place. On the following day, when the snow ceased falling for a short time, a still greater change was perceptible, there being in-shore a space of clear water extending three miles from east to west, and more numerous marks than before of recent pressure. Upon the whole, the change in the state of the ice since our outward journey was very striking, and seemed to afford a hope that the passage of the ships might still be favoured by some more extensive movement.

“ At half-past eleven A.M., the tide being out so far as to favour our getting upon the ice, we set out for the ships, steering by a pocket-compass, as the weather was too thick to allow us to see them. Passing several ‘lanes’ of water, one of them of considerable breadth, and observing several places in which the ice had been thrown up by pressure, we came, at half-past one P.M., to a broad lane, with the ice in motion on the opposite side. As the direction of the ships was still uncertain, we halted

here to dine, and obtaining a sight of them soon after, in a clearer interval, again set out. At four, the Fury made the signal of having discovered us; and at seven o'clock, being met by a fresh party, we arrived on board."

Mr. Bushnan remarked, in the course of this journey, that though in some places, and particularly at the head of Whyte Inlet, the vegetation was remarkably abundant, yet the plants were singularly backward and dwarfish, and flowers rare; which remark was also made by most of our other travellers. The Esquimaux huts, at the head of Whyte Inlet, Mr. Bushnan describes as being, one round, and the other rectangular; the latter, which was the largest, being seven feet in length, and five in breadth. They were made with large slabs of sandstone, and had every appearance of having been winter residences.

The weather continuing very thick, with small snow, and there being now every reason to suppose a final disruption of the

fixed ice at hand, I determined to provide against the danger to which, at night, this long-wished-for event would expose the ships, by adopting a plan that had often before occurred to me, as likely to prove beneficial in an unknown and critical navigation such as this. This was nothing more than the establishment of a temporary lighthouse on shore during the night, which, in case of our getting adrift, would, together with the soundings, afford us that security which the sluggish traversing of the compasses otherwise rendered extremely doubtful. For this purpose, two steady men, provided with a tent and blankets, were landed on the east point of Amherst Island at sunset, to keep up some bright lights during the eight hours of darkness, and to be sent for at daylight in the morning. On the 16th the north-west wind continued, but no alteration whatever took place in the ice. Small snow was almost constantly falling during the day, which once more, and permanently for the winter, as it afterwards proved, covered those parts of the

land that the late fine weather had partially cleared. A number of seals were seen upon the ice, and these were all the animals we noticed about this time. Our light-house was again established at sunset.

On the 17th, the wind freshened almost to a gale, from the north-west, with thicker and more constant snow than before. The thermometer fell to $16\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ at six A.M., rose no higher than 20° in the course of the day, and got down to 12° at night, so that the young ice began now to form about us in great quantities. The danger of our being seriously hampered, should the ice come adrift in the night, being much increased by this new annoyance, which we well knew to be the certain symptom of approaching winter, it became absolutely necessary to move somewhere out of the way. We therefore cast off, and stood a little within the east point of Amherst Island, where a good birth was found alongside another floe of land-ice, and sheltered by the island from any thing coming up the strait from the westward. The Fury was set fast by

the young ice in the course of the night, which proved clearer than was expected, with a faint appearance of the Aurora Borealis in the N.N.W. quarter.

Appearances had now become so much against our making any further progress this season, as to render it a matter of very serious consideration, whether we ought to risk being shut up during the winter, in the middle of the strait, where, from whatever cause it might proceed, the last year's ice was not yet wholly detached from the shores; and where a fresh formation had already commenced, which there was but too much reason to believe would prove a permanent one. Our wintering in the strait involved the certainty of being frozen up for eleven months,—a sickening prospect under any circumstances, but in the present instance probably fatal to our best hopes and expectations.

With the conviction of these unpleasant truths reluctantly forced upon my mind, I considered it my duty to assist my own judgment at this crisis by calling for the

opinions of the senior officers of the Expedition. With this view, therefore, I addressed a letter to Captain Lyon and Lieutenants Hoppner and Nias respectively, directing their attention to the principal circumstances of our present situation, and requesting their advice as to the measures most proper to be pursued for the successful prosecution of our enterprise.

The officers agreeing with me in opinion as to the expediency of our not risking a detention in the strait during the winter, I determined, on the grounds before detailed, no longer to postpone our departure, if indeed, as there was some reason to think, it had not already been delayed too long. I therefore directed a memorandum to be read on board each ship, acquainting the officers and men with my views, as above stated, and also expressing my intention to employ whatever time might yet remain of the present season, in the examination of the coast of Cockburn Island to the northward and eastward. In the event of making little progress in that direction, I pro-

posed looking out for some situation in the neighbourhood of Igloodik that might afford security to the ships during the winter, and by ensuring an early release in the spring, allow us at least the liberty of choosing to what part of the coast our efforts should then be directed. I gladly availed myself of this opportunity to offer my best thanks, so justly due, to the officers and men under my command, for their zealous and unremitting exertions during the two seasons that had passed; and it was scarcely necessary to remind the ships' companies of the necessity of continuing to the last those praiseworthy efforts, on which the ultimate accomplishment of our enterprise might still depend.

The young ice had now formed so thick about the *Fury*, that it became rather doubtful whether we should get her out without an increase of wind to assist in extricating her, or a decrease of cold. At ten A.M., however, we began to attempt it, but by noon had not moved the ship more than half her own length. As soon as we

had reached the outer point of the floe, in a bay of which we had been lying, we had no longer the means of applying a force from without, and, if alone, should therefore have been helpless, at least for a time. The Hecla, however, being fortunately unencumbered, in consequence of having lain in a less sheltered place, sent her boats with a hawser to the margin of the young ice; and ours being carried to meet it, by men walking upon planks, at considerable risk of going through, she at length succeeded in pulling us out; and getting into clear water, or rather into less tough ice, at three P.M. we shaped a course to the eastward. At seven o'clock, it being too late to run through the narrows, we anchored for the night in ten fathoms, near the east end of Liddon Island, where we lay without disturbance.

In our return to Igloolik we encountered a severe gale, but we luckily discovered it at half-past ten A.M., though such was the difficulty of distinguishing this from Neerlo-nakto, or either from the main land, on ac-

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count of the snow that covered them, that, had it not been for the Esquimaux huts, we should not easily have recognised the place. At noon on the 24th, we arrived off the point where the tents had first been pitched, and were immediately greeted by a number of Esquimaux, who came running down to the beach, shouting and jumping with all their might. The soundings, though regularly decreasing, are shoal off this point; and the *Fury*, in standing in, shoaled the water to four fathoms and a half, at the distance of half a mile; but by keeping out a little, and proceeding with caution along the south shore of the island, we deepened to twenty, and being then led more off the land, found no bottom with the hand-leads. Making a tack towards the island, we again came into regular soundings; and at half-past two P.M. anchored in ten fathoms, on a muddy bottom, at the distance of two-thirds of a mile from the shore.

As soon as we had anchored I went on shore, accompanied by several of the officers, to pay the Esquimaux a visit, a crowd

of them meeting us as usual on the beach, and greeting us with every demonstration of joy. They seemed disappointed that we had not reached Akkolee, for they always receive with eagerness any intelligence of their distant country-people. Many of them, and Toolemak among the number, frequently repeated the expressions, "*Ony-ak Na-o!*" (no summer,) "*Took-too Na-o!*" (no rein-deer,) which we considered at the time as some confirmation of our own surmises respecting the badness of the past summer. When we told them we were come to winter among them, they expressed very great, and doubtless very sincere, delight, and even a few *koyennas* (thanks) escaped them on the first communication of this piece of intelligence.

We found these people already established in their winter residences, which consisted principally of the huts before described, but modified in various ways both as to form and materials. The roofs, which were wholly wanting in the summer, were now formed by skins, stretched tight

across from side to side. This, however, as we soon afterwards found, was only a preparation for the final winter covering of snow; and indeed many of the huts were subsequently lined in the same way within, the skins being attached to the sides and roof by slender threads of whalebone, disposed in large and regular stitches. Before the passages already described, others were now added, from ten to fifteen feet in length, and from four to five feet high, neatly constructed of large flat slabs of ice, cemented together by snow and water. Some huts also were entirely built of this material, of a rude circular or octangular form, and roofed with skins like the others. The light and transparent effect within these singular habitations, gave one the idea of being in a house of ground-glass, and their newness made them look clean, comfortable, and wholesome. Not so the more substantial bone huts, which, from their extreme closeness and accumulated filth, emitted an almost insupportable stench, to which an abundant supply of raw and half-

putrid walrus' flesh in no small degree contributed. The passages to these are so low as to make it necessary to crawl on the hands and knees to enter them; and the floors of the apartments were in some so steep and slippery, that we could with difficulty pass and repass, without the risk of continually falling among the filth with which they were covered. These were the dirtiest, because the most durable, of any Esquimaux habitations we had yet seen; and it may be supposed they did not much improve during the winter. Some bitches with young were very carefully and conveniently lodged in small square kennels, made of four upright slabs of ice covered with a fifth, and having a small hole as a door in one of the sides. The canoes were also laid upon two slabs of this kind, like tall tomb-stones standing erect; and a quantity of spare slabs lying in different places gave the ground an appearance somewhat resembling that of a statuary's yard. Large stores of walrus' and seals' flesh, principally the former, were deposited under heaps of

stones all about the beach, and, as we afterwards found, in various other parts of the island, which showed that they had made some provision for the winter, though, with their enormous consumption of food, it proved a very inadequate one.

The breeze continuing fresh from the westward, with clear weather, the thermometer fell to 12° on the morning of the 25th. Being desirous of ascertaining, as soon as possible, in what situation it would be expedient to place the ships for the winter, several boats were despatched to sound along the shore; when I found that the only spot likely to afford shelter, or even any near approach to the land, was within a point called *Oōng-ālōoyāt*, at the entrance of a fine bay, about two miles to the westward of our present anchorage. The young ice now covered the whole surface of the sea like floating honey, the breeze not allowing it to become solid; and, towards night, the wind shifting to the eastward, soon raised the temperature too high for any fresh formation of that kind. I deter-

mined, therefore, without loss of time, to take advantage of the opportunity afforded by this change, to run to the westward in a boat, as far as the fixed ice would permit; and, if soon stopped by that obstacle, to cross upon it to the main-land, and endeavour to clear up the mystery respecting *Khemig*, which had cost us so many speculations and conjectures.

Leaving the *Fury* at seven A.M. on the 26th, and being favoured by a fresh easterly breeze, we soon cleared the south-west point of Igloodik; and having passed the little island of *Oogliāghioo*, immediately perceived to the W.N.W. of us a group of islands, so exactly answering the description of Coxe's Group, both in character and situation, as to leave no doubt of our being exactly in Captain Lyon's former track. Being still favoured by the wind, and by the total absence of fixed ice, we reached the islands at eleven A.M., and after sailing a mile or two among them, came at once in sight of the two bluffs, forming the passage pointed out by Toolemak, and then supposed

to be called *Khemig*. The land to the north, called by the Esquimaux *Khiadlaghioo*, was now found to be, as we had before conjectured, the southern shore of Richards' Bay; and its extreme point to the eastward I subsequently named, by Lieutenant Nias's request, CAPE MATTHEW SMITH, after Captain Matthew Smith, of the Royal Navy. The land on our left, or to the southward, proved an island, five miles and a quarter in length, of the same bold and rugged character as the rest of this numerous group, and by far the largest of them all. To prevent the necessity of reverting to this subject, I may at once add, that two or three months after this, on laying before Ewerat our own chart of the whole coast, in order to obtain the Esquimaux names, we discovered that the island, just mentioned, was called *Khemig*, by which name Ormond Island was *also* distinguished; the word expressing, in the Esquimaux language, any thing stopping up the mouth of a place or narrowing its entrance, and applied also more familiarly to the cork of a



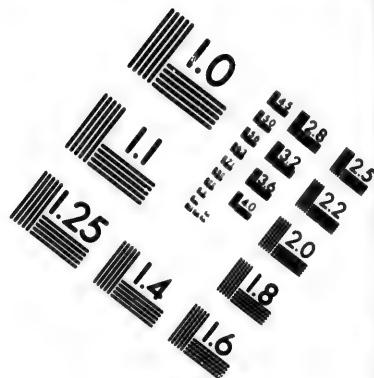
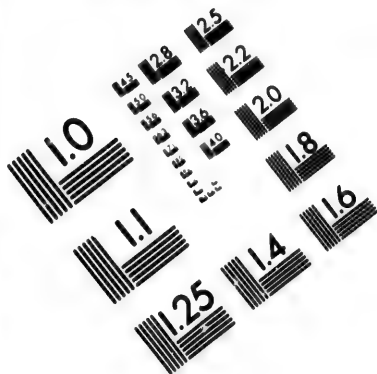
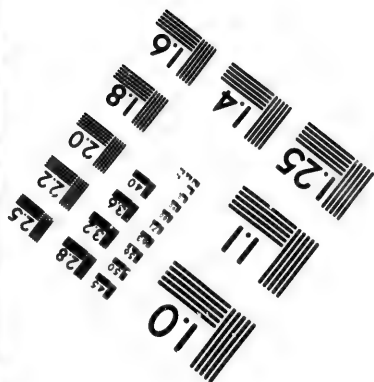
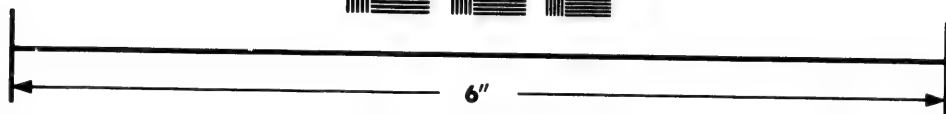
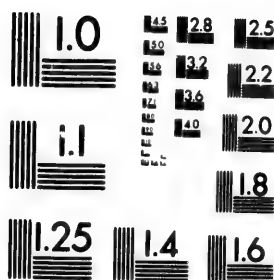


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bottle, or a plug of any kind. And thus were reconciled all the apparent inconsistencies respecting this hitherto mysterious and incomprehensible word, which had occasioned us so much perplexity.

After landing to dine upon one of the islands, of which, from first to last, we counted nearly one hundred, we again made sail, and, running between the bluffs, which are half a mile apart, continued our course in rather a wider channel than before, though still among islands. At half-past three we were stopped by a floe of fixed ice, stretching entirely across the passage, and the weather now becoming thick with small snow, we landed and pitched the tent for the night; not, however, till I had recognised on the left hand, or main-land, the remarkable cliff, described in my former journey, by which circumstance we were assured of being near the little inlet then discovered.

At daylight on the 27th, we crossed to a small island at the margin of the ice; and leaving the boat there in charge of the cox-

swain, and two of the crew, Mr. Ross and myself, accompanied by the other two, set out across the ice at seven A.M., to gain the main-land, with the intention of determining the extent of the inlet by walking up its southern bank. After an hour's good travelling, we landed at eight A.M., and had scarcely done so when we found ourselves at the very entrance, being exactly opposite the place from which Mr. Richards and myself had obtained the first view of the inlet. The patch of ice on which we had been walking, and which was about three miles long, proved the only remains of last year's formation; so forcibly had nature struggled to get rid of this before the commencement of a fresh winter.

We found this land similar to Igloolik in its geological character, being composed of limestone in schistose fragments; but in some parts, even for a mile or two together, covered with herbage, the most extensive and luxuriant I have ever seen near this latitude. Here and there occurred a little pile, as it were, of the fragments of lime-

stone, lying horizontally, as if arranged by art, and projecting a few feet above the surface of the ground. The sides of several small rising banks presented a similar disposition, but I did not notice any boulders of harder substances resting upon any of them, nor indeed could we find a single specimen of any other mineral than limestone. Walking quickly to the westward along this shore, which afforded excellent travelling, we soon perceived that our business was almost at an end, the inlet terminating a very short distance beyond where I had first traced it, the apparent turn to the northward being only that of a shallow bay. To make quite sure, however, I sent Mr. Ross on with one of the men, to walk to the head of it, while I with the other turned off to examine the cliff-land to the southward. We found the slope of this to be composed, as was conjectured, of the *debris* falling from the perpendicular ridge above, the whole being limestone without a single exception that we could discover. The slope making an angle of about 60°

with a horizontal line, and being in some parts covered with snow, we with difficulty ascended it; but found the upper ridge wholly impracticable, on account of the snow overhanging the summit. The height of the perpendicular rock, which lies in broad horizontal strata, is from twenty to thirty feet, the whole cliff being about one hundred and eighty above the level of the other ground. At the bottom of the slope lay numerous heavy square blocks of the limestone; and upon these, as well as on some of the smaller fragments, I observed impressions of fossil-shells.

Having finished my examination of this remarkable piece of land, which extends between four and five miles in an east and west direction, I went to meet Mr. Ross; who reported, that, having walked three or four miles to the westward, he found the inlet terminate about two miles further in that direction. Having thus completed our object, we set out on our return, and reached the boat at three P.M., after a walk

of twenty miles. The weather fortunately remaining extremely mild, no young ice was formed to obstruct our way, and we arrived on board at noon the following day, after an examination peculiarly satisfactory, inasmuch as it proved the non-existence of *any* water communication with the Polar Sea, however small and unfit for the navigation of ships, to the southward of the Strait of the Fury and Hecla. The creek, whose extent to the westward we had lately determined, I named after CAPTAIN JOHN QUILLIAM, of the Royal Navy; and the inlet, of which this is a continuation, was distinguished by the name of HOOPER INLET, after my friend Mr. Hooper, purser of the Fury,

I found from Captain Lyon on my return, that, in consequence of some ice coming in near the ships, (most probably that which had lately been dislodged from Richards' Bay,) he had shifted them round the point into the births where it was my intention to place them during the winter; where they

now lay in from eleven to fourteen fathoms, at the distance of three cables' lengths from the shore.

It was not till the afternoon of the 30th, that the whole was completed, and the *Fury* placed in the best birth for the winter that circumstances would permit. An early release in the spring could here be scarcely expected, nor indeed did the nature of the ice about us, independently of situation, allow us to hope for it; but both these unfavourable circumstances had been brought about by a contingency which no human power or judgment could have obviated, and at which, therefore, it would have been unreasonable as well as useless to repine. We lay here in rather less than five fathoms, on a muddy bottom, at the distance of one cable's length from the eastern shore of the bay.

The whole length of the canal we had sawed through, was four thousand three hundred and forty-three feet; the thickness of the ice, in the level and regular parts, being from twelve to fourteen inches, but

in many places, where a separation had occurred, amounting to several feet. I cannot sufficiently do justice to the cheerful alacrity with which the men continued this laborious work during thirteen days, the thermometer being frequently at *zero*, and once as low as -9° in that interval. It was satisfactory, moreover, to find, that, in the performance of this, not a single addition had been made to the sick-list of either ships, except by the accident of one man's falling into the canal, and who returned to his duty a day or two afterwards.

While our people were thus employed, the Esquimaux had continued to make daily visits to the ships, driving down on sledges with their wives and children, and thronging on board in great numbers, as well to gratify their curiosity, of which they do not in general possess much, as to pick up whatever trifles we could afford to bestow upon them. These people were at all times ready to assist in any work that was going on, pulling on the ropes, heaving at the windlass, and sawing the ice, sometimes

for an hour together. They always accompanied their exertions by imitating the sailors in their peculiar manner of "singing out" when hauling, thus, at least, affording the latter constant amusement, if not any very material assistance, during their labour. Among the numerous young people at Igloolik, there were some whose activity, on this and other occasions, particularly struck us. Of these I shall, at present, only mention two;—*Nōōgloo*, an adopted son of Toolemak, and *Kōngōlĕk*, a brother of "John Bull." These two young men, who were from eighteen to twenty years of age, and stood five feet seven inches in height, displayed peculiar *tact* in acquiring our method of heaving at the windlass, an exercise at which *Kongolek* became expert after an hour or two's practice. The countenances of both were handsome and prepossessing, and their limbs well-formed and muscular; qualities, which, combined with their activity and manliness, rendered them, (to speak like a naturalist,) perhaps as fine

specimens of the human race as almost any country can produce.

Some of our Winter Island friends had now arrived also, being the party who left us there towards the end of the preceding May, and whom we had afterwards overtaken on their journey to the northward. They were certainly all very glad to see us again, and, throwing off the Esquimaux for a time, shook us heartily by the hand, with every demonstration of sincere delight. Ewerat, in his quiet sensible way, which was always respectable, gave us a circumstantial account of every event of his journey. On his arrival at *Owlitteewee*, near which island we overtook him, he had buried the greater part of his baggage under heaps of stones, the ice no longer being fit for dragging the sledge upon. Here also he was happily eased of a still greater burthen, by the death of his idiot boy, who thus escaped the miseries to which a longer life must, among these people, have inevitably exposed him. As for that noisy little

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fellow, "John Bull," (*Kooillitiuk*,) he employed almost the whole of his first visit in asking every one, by name, "How d'ye do, Mr. so and so?" a question which had obtained him great credit among our people at Winter Island. Being a very important little personage, he also took great pride in pointing out various contrivances on board the ships, and explaining to the other Esquimaux their different uses, to which the latter did not fail to listen with all the attention due to so knowing an oracle.

We had, for several days past, seen no birds near the ships, except one or two ravens; but those who had visited the huts had met with a covey or two of grouse in that neighbourhood, of which a few were killed by the Esquimaux with arrows. Mr. Edwards found, on examination, that these birds, and also one or two obtained in the summer, on the south shore of the strait, were not of the same species as those we had procured farther to the southward, the latter being the *tetrao rupestris*, and these the *tetrao albus*, (Pennant's Arct. Zool.) or

the willow-partridge of Hearne. Two wolves had lately paid us some nocturnal visits, and the Esquimaux had killed several bears in the neighbourhood of the open water.

CHAPTER XIII.

Preparations for the winter—Various meteorological phenomena to the close of the year 1822—Sickness among the Esquimaux—Meteorological phenomena to the end of March.

November.—THE measures now adopted for the security of the ships and their stores, for the maintenance of economy, cleanliness, and health, and for the prosecution of the various observations and experiments, being principally the same as those already detailed in the preceding winter's narrative, I shall be readily excused for passing them over in silence.

It is worthy of notice, that each succeeding winter passed in these regions, had suggested to us the expediency of leaving our masts, yards, sails, and rigging, more and more in their proper places than before :

and all that we now did was to strike the top-gallant yards and masts, unreeve the running-rigging, to prevent chafing by the wind, lay the small sails across the tops, and hang the spare spars over the side. It may, indeed, be safely affirmed, that in a high latitude, the less the masts and yards are dismantled the better, for the frost does no injury to the geer while it remains unmoved; and none can possibly occur from thawing till the proper season for refitting arrives. The boats were placed on the ice, about fifty yards from the ships, and with their geer stowed in them, closely covered with snow.

The daily visits of the Esquimaux to the ships throughout the winter afforded, both to officers and men, a fund of constant variety and never-failing amusement, which no resources of our own could possibly have furnished. Our people were, however, too well aware of the advantage they derived from the schools, not to be desirous of their re-establishment, which accordingly

took place soon after our arrival at Igloolik; and they were glad to continue this as their evening occupation during the six succeeding months.

The year closed with the temperature of -42° , the mean of the month of December having been $27^{\circ} 8'$, which, taken in connexion with that of November, led us to expect a severe winter.

About the middle of the month of December several of the Esquimaux had moved from the huts at Igloolik, some taking up their quarters on the ice at a considerable distance to the north-west, and the rest about a mile outside the summer station of the tents. At the close of the year from fifty to sixty individuals had thus decamped, their object being, like that of other savages on *terra firma*, to increase their means of subsistence by covering more ground; their movements were arranged so quietly that we seldom heard of their intentions till they were gone. At the new stations they lived entirely in huts

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of snow; and the northerly and easterly winds were considered by them as most favourable for their fishing, as these served to bring in the loose ice, on which they principally kill the walruses. At the distant station, however, which was farther removed from clear water, their principal dependence was on the *neitiek*, which is taken by watching at the holes made by that animal in the ice. Abreast of Igloolik the clear water was not, with a westerly wind, more than three miles distant from the land, and a dark water-sky continued accurately to define its position and extent.

Towards the latter end of January [1823] the accounts from the huts, as well from the Esquimaux as from our own people, concurred in stating that the number of the sick, as well as the seriousness of their complaints, was rapidly increasing there. We had indeed scarcely heard of the illness of a woman named *Kei-mōō-seuk*, who, it seemed, had lately miscarried, when an account arrived of her death. She was one

of the two wives of *Ooyjarra*, one of Captain Lyon's fellow-travellers in the summer, who buried her in the snow, about two hundred yards from the huts, placing slabs of the same perishable substance over the body, and cementing them by pouring a little water in the interstices. Such an interment was not likely to be a very secure one, and, accordingly, a few days after, the hungry dogs removed the snow, and devoured the body.

Captain Lyon gave me the following account of the death and burial of another poor woman and her child:—

“The mother, Poo-too-alook, was about thirty-five years of age, the child about three years—yet not weaned, and a female; there was also another daughter, Shega, about twelve or thirteen years of age, who, as well as her father, was a most attentive nurse. My hopes were but small, as far as concerned the mother, but the child was so patient that I hoped, from its docility, soon to accustom it to soups and nourishing food, as its only complaint was actual star-

vation. I screened off a portion of my cabin, and arranged some bedding for them, in the same manner as the Esquimaux do their own. Warm broth, dry bedding, and a comfortable cabin did wonders before evening, and our medical men gave me great hopes. As an introduction to a system of cleanliness, and preparatory to washing the sick, who were in a most filthy state, I scrubbed Shega and her father from head to foot, and dressed them in new clothes. During the night I persuaded both mother and child, who were very restless, and constantly moaning, to take a few spoonfuls of soup. On the morning of the 24th the woman appeared considerably improved, and she both spoke and ate a little. As she was covered with so thick a coating of dirt that it could be taken off in scales, I obtained her assent to wash her face and hands a little before noon. The man and his daughter now came to my table to look at some things I had laid out to amuse them; and after a few minutes Shega lifted the curtain to look at her mother, when she

again let it fall and tremblingly told us she was dead.

“The husband sighed heavily, the daughter burst into tears, and the poor little infant made the moment more distressing by calling in a plaintive tone on its mother, by whose side it was lying. I determined on burying the woman on shore, and the husband was much pleased at my promising that the body should be drawn on a sledge by men instead of dogs; for, to our horror, Takkeelikkeeta had told me that dogs had eaten part of Keimooseuk, and, that when he left the huts with his wife one was devouring the body as he passed it.

“Takkeelikkeeta now prepared to dress the dead body, and in the first place, stopped his nose with deer's hair, and put on his gloves, seeming unwilling that his naked hand should come in contact with the corpse. I observed, in this occupation, his care that every article of dress should be as carefully placed as when his wife was living, and having drawn the boots on the wrong legs, he pulled them off again and

put them properly. This ceremony finished, the deceased was sewed up in a hammock, and, at the husband's urgent request, her face was left uncovered. An officer who was present at the time agreed with me in fancying that the man, from his words and actions, intimated a wish that the living child might be enclosed with its mother. We may have been mistaken, but there is an equal probability that we were right in our conjecture; for, according to Crantz and Egede, the Greenlanders were in the habit of burying their motherless infants, from a persuasion that they must otherwise starve to death, and also from being unable to bear the cries of the little ones while lingering for several days without sustenance; for no woman will give them any share of their milk, which they consider as the exclusive property of their own offspring. My dogs being carefully tied up at the man's request, a party of our people, accompanied by me, drew the body to the shore, where we made a grave, about a foot deep, being unable to get lower on

account of the frozen earth. The body was placed on its back, at the husband's request, and he then stepped into the grave and cut all the stitches of the hammock, although without throwing it open, seeming to imply that the dead should be left unconfined. I laid a woman's knife by the side of the body, and we filled up the grave, over which we also piled a quantity of heavy stones, which no animal could remove. When all was done, and we returned to the ship, the man lingered a few minutes behind us and repeated two or three sentences, as if addressing himself to his departed wife; he then silently followed. We found Shega quite composed, and attending her little sister, between whose eye-brows she had made a spot with soot, which I learned was because being unweaned it must certainly die. During the night my little charge called on its mother without intermission, yet the father slept as soundly until morning as if nothing had happened.

"All who saw my patient on the morn-

ing of the 25th, gave me great hopes; she could swallow easily, and was even strong enough to turn or sit upright without assistance, and in the forenoon slept very soundly. At noon, the sister of the deceased, Ootooguak, with her husband and son, came to visit me. She had first gone to the Fury, and was laughing on deck, and at her own request was taken below, not caring to hurry herself to come to the house of mourning. Even when she came to the Hecla, she was in high spirits, laughing and capering on deck as if nothing had happened; but on being shown to my cabin, where Shega, having heard of her arrival, was sitting crying in readiness, she began with her niece to howl most wofully. I, however, put a stop to this ceremony, for such it certainly was, under the plea of its disturbing the child. The arrival of a pot of smoking walrus' flesh soon brought smiles on all faces but that of Takkeelik-keeta, who refused food and sat sighing deeply; the others ate, chatted, and laughed as if nothing but eating was worth thinking

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of. Dinner being over, I received thanks for burying the woman in such a way that 'neither wolves, dogs, nor foxes could dig her up and eat her,' for all were full of the story of Keimooseuk, and even begged some of our officers to go to Igloolik and shoot the offending dogs. A young woman named Ablik, sister to Ooyarra, was induced, after much entreaty and a very large present of beads, to offer her breast to the sick child, but the poor little creature pushed it angrily away. Another woman was asked to do the same, but although her child was half weaned she flatly refused.

"The aunt of my little one seeming anxious to remain, and Shega being now alone, I invited her to stop the night. In the evening the child took meat and jelly, and sat up to help itself, but it soon after resumed its melancholy cry for its mother. At night my party had retired to sleep, yet I heard loud sighing occasionally, and on lifting the curtain, I saw Takkeelikkeeta standing and looking mournfully at his

child. I endeavoured to compose him, and he promised to go to bed, but hearing him again sighing in a few minutes, I went and found the poor infant was dead, and that its father had been some time aware of it. He now told me it had seen its mother the last time it called on her, and that she had beckoned it to Khil-la, (Heaven,) on which it instantly died. He said it was 'good' that the child was gone, that no children out-lived their mothers, and that the black spot, which Shega had frequently renewed, was quite sufficient to insure the death of the infant.

"My party made a hearty breakfast on the 26th, and I observed they did not scruple to lay the vessel containing the meat on the dead child, which I had wrapped in a blanket; and this unnatural table excited neither disgust nor any other feeling amongst them more than a block of wood could have done. We now tied up all the dogs, as Takkeelikkeeta desired, and took the child about a quarter of a mile astern of the ships, to bury it in the snow; for the father as-

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sured me that her mother would cry in her grave if any weight of stones or earth pressed on her infant. She herself, he feared, had already felt pain from the monument of stones which we had laid upon her. The snow in which we dug the child's grave was not above a foot deep, yet we were not allowed to cut into the ice, or even use any slabs of it in constructing the little tomb. The body, wrapped in a blanket and having the face uncovered, being placed, the father put the slings by which its deceased mother had carried it, on the right side, and in compliance with the Esquimaux custom of burying toys and presents with their dead, I threw in some beads. A few loose slabs of snow were now placed so as to cover, without touching, the body, and with this very slight sepulchre the father was contented, although a fox could have dug through it in half a minute. We, however, added more snow, and cemented all by pouring about twenty buckets of water, which were brought from the ship, on every part of the mound. I remarked, that be-

fore our task was completed the man turned and walked quietly to the ships.

“ During the two last days, I obtained some information with respect to mourning ceremonies, or at all events such as related to the loss of a mother of a family ; three days were to be passed by the survivors without their walking out on the ice, performing any kind of work, or even having any thing made for them. Washing is out of the question with Esquimaux at most times, but now I was not allowed to perform the necessary ablutions of their hands and faces, however greasy or dirty they might be made by their food ; the girl's hair was not to be put in pig-tails, and every thing was neglected ; Takkeelikkeeta was not to go sealing until the summer. With the exception of an occasional sigh from the man, there were no more signs of grief ; our mourners ate, drank, and were merry, and no one would have supposed they ever had wife, mother, or sister. When the three days, and it is singular that such should be the time, were expired, the man

was to visit the grave; and having talked with his wife, all duties were to be considered as over. The 28th was our third day, but a heavy northerly gale and thick drift prevented our visiting the grave. The 29th, although not fine, was more moderate, and I accompanied him at an early hour. Arriving at the grave, he anxiously walked up to it and carefully sought for foot-tracks on the snow, but finding none, repeated to himself, 'No wolves, no dogs, no foxes, thank ye, thank ye.' He now began a conversation, which he directed entirely to the grave, as if addressing his wife. He called her twice by name, and twice told her how the wind was blowing, looking at the same time in the direction from whence the drift was coming. He next broke forth into a low monotonous chaunt, and, keeping his eyes fixed on the grave, walked slowly round it in the direction of the sun four or five times, and at each circuit he stopped a few moments at the head. His song was, however, uninterrupted. At the expiration of about eight minutes he stopped, and

turning suddenly round to me, exclaimed, ' *Tūgnā*,' (that's enough,) and began walking back to the ship. In the song he chaunted I could frequently distinguish the word *Koyenna*, (thank you,) and it was occasionally coupled with the *Kabloonas*. Two other expressions, both the names of the spirits or familiars of the *Annatko*, *Toolemak*, were used a few times; but the whole of the other words were perfectly unintelligible to me.

" I now sent *Shega* and her father home, well clothed and in good case. The week they had passed on board was sufficient time to have gained them the esteem of every one, for they were the most quiet inoffensive beings I ever met with; and, to their great credit, they never once begged. The man was remarkable for his extraordinary fondness for treacle, sugar, salt, acids, and spruce-beer, which the others of the tribe could not even smell without disgust; and he walked about to the different messes in hopes of being treated with these delicacies.

Shega was a timid well-behaved girl, and generally remained eating in my cabin, for I am confident of speaking far within bounds when I say she got through eight pounds of solids per diem. As far as gratitude could be shown by Esquimaux, which is saying 'koyenna' on receiving a present, my friends were sensible of the attentions I had shown them."

March 5th.—The Esquimaux were about this time rather badly off for food, in consequence of the winds having of late been unfavourable for their fishery; but this had only occurred two or three times in the course of the winter, and never so much as to occasion any great distress. It is certain, indeed, that the quantity of meat which they procured between the 1st of October and the 1st of April, was sufficient to have furnished about double the population of working people, who were moderate eaters, and had any idea of providing for a future day; but to individuals who can demolish four or five

pounds at a sitting, and at least ten in the course of a day,* and who never bestow a thought on to-morrow, at least with the view to provide for it by economy, there is scarcely any supply which could secure them from occasional scarcity. It is highly probable that the alternate feasting and fasting to which the gluttony and improvidence of these people so constantly subject

* Lest it should be thought that this account is exaggerated, I may here state that, as a matter of curiosity, we one day tried how much a lad, scarcely full grown, would, if freely supplied, consume in this way. The under-mentioned articles were weighed before being given to him: he was twenty hours in getting through them, and certainly did not consider the quantity extraordinary.

	lb.	oz.
Sea-horse flesh, hard frozen . . .	4	4
Ditto, boiled . . .	4	4
Bread and bread-dust . . .	1	12

Total of solids . . . 10 4

The fluids were in fair proportion, viz.—

Rich gravy-soup . . .	1½ pint.
Raw spirits . . .	3 wine glasses.
Strong grog . . .	1 tumbler.
Water . . .	1 gallon 1 pint.

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them, may have occasioned many of the complaints that proved fatal during the winter; and on this account we hardly knew whether to rejoice or not at the general success of their fishery. Certain it is, that on a particular occasion of great plenty, one or two individuals were seen lying in the huts so distended by the quantity of meat they had eaten, that they were unable to move, and were suffering considerable pain arising solely from this cause. Indeed it is difficult to assign any other probable reason for the lamentable proportion of deaths that took place during our stay at Igloolik, while, during a season of nearly equal severity, and of much greater privation as to food, at Winter Island, not a single death occurred. Notwithstanding their general plenty, there were times in the course of this winter, as well as the last, when our bread-dust was of real service to them, and they were always particularly desirous of obtaining it for their younger children. They distinguished this kind of food by the

name of *kāñbrööt*, and biscuit or soft bread by that of *shēgälāk*, the literal meaning of which terms we never could discover, but supposed them to have some reference to their respective qualities.

Our lengthened acquaintance with the Esquimaux and their language, which a second winter passed among them afforded, gave us an opportunity of occasionally explaining to them in some measure in what direction our country lay, and of giving them some idea of its distance, climate, population, and productions. It was with extreme difficulty that these people had imbibed any correct idea of the superiority of rank possessed by some individuals among us; and when at length they came into this idea, they naturally measured our respective importance by the riches they supposed each to possess. The ships they considered, as a matter of course, to belong to Captain Lyon and myself, and on this account distinguished them by the names of *Lyon-oomiak* and *Paree-oomiak*; but they believed that the boats and other parts of

the furniture were the property of various other individuals among us ; they were, therefore, not a little surprised to be seriously assured that neither the one nor the other belonged to any of us, but to a much richer and more powerful person, to whom we all paid respect and obedience, and at whose command we had come to visit and enrich the *Innuées*. Ewerat, on account of his steadiness and intelligence, as well as the interest with which he listened to any thing relating to *Kabloonas*, was particularly fit to receive information of this nature ; and a general chart of the Atlantic Ocean, and of the lands on each side, immediately conveyed to his mind an idea of the distance we had come, and the direction in which our home lay. This and similar information was received by Ewerat and his wife with the most eager astonishment and interest, not merely displayed in the " hei-ya ! " which constitutes the usual extent of Esquimaux admiration, but evidently enlarging their notions respecting the other parts of the world, and creating

in them ideas which could never before have entered their minds. By way of trying their inclinations, I asked them if they would consent to leave their own country, and, taking with them their children, go to live in ours, where they would see no more *Innuées*, and never eat any more seal or walrus. To all this they willingly agreed, and with an earnestness that left no doubt of their sincerity; Togolat adding, in an emphatic manner, "*Shagloo ooagoot nao*," (we do not tell a falsehood,) an expression of peculiar force among them. The eagerness with which they assented to this proposal made me almost repent my curiosity, and I was glad to get out of the scrape by saying, that the great personage of whom I had spoken would not be pleased at my taking them home, without having first obtained his permission. Information of the kind alluded to was subsequently given to many of the other Esquimaux, some of whom could at length pronounce the name of "King George," so as to be tolerably intelligible.

The weather was now so pleasant, and the temperature in the sun so comfortable to the feelings when a shelter could be found from the wind, that we set up various games for the people, such as cricket, football, and quoits, which some of them played for many hours during the day. There is a certain sallowness in the looks of people living much by candle-light, which was always very perceptible in our officers and men during the winter, but which wore off generally with the returning spring. The sun now, indeed, began to be somewhat glaring and oppressive to the eyes on first coming into daylight; and before the end of March, some crape was issued to be worn as veils, a protection of which most persons were already glad to avail themselves. A thermometer, exposed to the sun on the south side of the observatory on the 14th, indicated $+18^{\circ}$, while another, suspended freely without any shelter from the wind, stood at *zero*, that in the shade being at -9° at the time.

At the close of the month of March we

were glad to find that its mean temperature, being -19.75° , when taken in conjunction with those of January and February, appeared to constitute a mild winter for this latitude. There were, besides, some other circumstances which served to distinguish this winter from any preceding one we had passed in the ice. One of the most remarkable of these was the frequent occurrence of hard well-defined clouds, a feature we had hitherto considered as almost unknown in the winter-sky of the polar regions. It is not improbable, that these may have, in part, owed their origin to a large extent of sea, keeping open to the south-eastward throughout the winter, though they not only occurred with the wind from that quarter, but also with the colder weather, usually accompanying north-westerly breezes. About the time of the sun's re-appearance, and for a week or two after it, these clouds were not more a subject of admiration to us on account of their novelty, than from the glowing richness of the tints with which they were adorned. It is, indeed, scarcely

possible for nature, in any climate, to produce a sky exhibiting greater splendour and richness of colouring, than we at times experienced in the course of this spring. The edges of the clouds, near the sun, often presented a fiery, or burning appearance, while the opposite side of the heavens was distinguished by a deep purple about the horizon, gradually softening upwards into a warm, yet delicate rose-colour, of inconceivable beauty. These phenomena have always impressed us the most forcibly about the time of the sun's permanent setting, and that of his re-appearance, especially the latter, and have invariably furnished a particular subject of conversation to us at those periods; but I do not know whether this is to be attributed so much to the colouring of the sky, exactly at the times alluded to, as to our habit of setting on every enjoyment a value proportioned to its scarceness and novelty. Besides, the colouring of the clouds, just mentioned, I also observed five or six times, in the course of the spring, those more rare and delicate tints, to which

allusion has already been made in this Narrative, and twice in that of the preceding voyage. This peculiarity, in which I now observed no difference from those of the same kind before described, would probably have been oftener seen, but for the glare of the sun upon the eyes in viewing an object so near it. Perhaps it has also been seen in other climates ; here it is, I believe, most frequent in the spring, and I have never noticed it after the summer temperature has commenced.

Shortly after the sun's re-appearance, it not unfrequently happened about noon, that a part of the low shore to the southward of the ships appeared, by the effect of refraction, to be raised and separated, forming a long narrow streak of a dark colour, like a cloud, suspended a few minutes above the land, in a position nearly horizontal.

In this case the land, or other distant objects, may be seen over them, though there is near them always a mistiness, to which they perhaps owe their origin. Al-

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though, however, the winter atmosphere of these regions is seldom free from numberless minute particles of snow, which are abundantly deposited upon any thing left in the open air, yet it was not observable, except in some cases of snow-drift, that parhelia were more frequent or distinct when this deposit was the greatest, than when the atmosphere was comparatively clear, though, in the latter case, they are always to appearance most distant. Parhelia occur most frequently, and exhibit the greatest intensity of light, at low altitudes of the sun. This is often particularly observable in the short days, when these phenomena assume a very brilliant appearance soon after sunrise, decrease in splendour towards noon, and resume their brightness as the sun descends towards the horizon; continuing, however, distinctly visible the whole time, and being sometimes accompanied by a more or less perfect halo undergoing corresponding variations.

Another peculiarity observed in this winter was the rare occurrence of the Aurora Bo-

realis, and the extraordinary poorness of its display whenever it did make its appearance. It was almost invariably seen to the southward, between an E.S.E. and a W.S.W. bearing, generally low, the stationary patches of it having a tendency to form an irregular arch, and not unfrequently with coruscations shooting towards the zenith. When more diffused it still kept, in general, on the southern side of the zenith; but never exhibited any of those rapid and complicated movements observed in the course of the preceding winter, nor indeed any feature that renders it necessary to attempt a particular description. The electrometer was frequently tried by Mr. Fisher, at times when the state of the atmosphere appeared the most favourable, but always without any sensible effect being produced on the gold leaf.

The difference in the temperature of the day and night began to be sensible as early as the first week in March, and the daily range of the thermometer increased considerably from that time. The increase in the

average temperature of the atmosphere, however, is extremely slow in these regions, long after the sun has attained a considerable meridian altitude; but this is in some degree compensated by the inconceivable rapidity with which the days seem to lengthen when once the sun has re-appeared. There is, indeed, no change which continues to excite so much surprise as that from almost constant darkness to constant day; and this is of course the more sudden and striking in proportion to the height of the latitude. Even in this comparatively low parallel the change seemed sufficiently remarkable; for soon after the middle of March, only ten weeks after the sun's re-appearance above the horizon, a bright twilight appeared at midnight in the northern heavens.

CHAPTER XIV.

Various journeys to the Esquimaux stations—illness and decease of Mr. Alexander Elder—Preparations for the Hecla's return to England—Remarkable halos, &c.—Shooting parties stationed at Arlagnuk—Journeys to Quilliam Creek—Arrival of Esquimaux from the northward—Account of a journey to the westward for the purpose of reaching the Polar Sea—The Esquimaux report two fishing-ships having been wrecked—A journey performed to Cockburn Island—Discovery of Murray Maxwell inlet.

ABOUT the first and second weeks in April, the Esquimaux were in the habit of coming up the inlet, to the southward of the ships, to kill the *neitiek*, or small seal, which brings forth its young at this season, and probably retires into sheltered places for that purpose. Besides the old seals, which

were taken in the manner before explained, the Esquimaux also caught a great number of young ones, by fastening a hook to the end of a staff, and hooking them up from the seal-hole after the mother had been killed. Our large fish-hooks were useful to them for this purpose, and the beautiful silvery skins of these young animals were occasionally brought to the ships as articles of barter: those of the fœtus of the *neitiek* are more yellow than the others, and, indeed, both in colour and texture, very much resemble raw silk.

We could at this season just make out that a stone was here and there more perceptible on shore than during the winter, owing to the tops of them being uncovered by the sun's rays; but this was the only change that could be observed. We had frequent occasion to notice, about this time, that a copious deposit of snow-crystals, of a large size, and of a beautiful arborescent form, took place every night, as soon as the temperature of the atmosphere fell some degrees below that of the day, just as the

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It is now once more my painful duty to record an afflicting visitation of Providence, which took place among us on the morning of the 15th, in the death of Mr. Alexander Elder, Greenland mate of the Hecla. He had complained on several different occasions in the course of this and the preceding winter, of pulmonary affections, to which perhaps a full habit of body may, in some degree, have contributed. His disease was now, however, a confirmed dropsy, which, having attacked the region of the heart, rapidly terminated his existence. Mr. Elder had served in the three successive Expeditions employed for the discovery of a North-West Passage, and, as a reward for his good conduct, had been raised from the situation of leading-man to that of mate, in which last capacity he served both in the Griper and the Hecla. He died much regretted by many of the officers and men, who had known him seve-

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ral years, and by none more deeply than myself. Most sincerely, indeed, do I lament the occasion which demands from me this tribute, due to the memory of an active and valuable seaman, as well as an honest and upright man. His remains were committed to the ground near the Observatory, with all the solemnity that the occasion demanded, and a tomb of stones, with a handsome tomb-stone, raised over the grave.

The first ducks noticed by the Esquimaux were mentioned to us on the 16th, and a few days afterwards immense flocks appeared, all of the king-duck species, about the open water near the margin of the ice, but our distance from this was so great, that we never saw any of them, and the weather was yet too cold to station a shooting party in that neighbourhood. Dovekies were now also numerous, and a gull or two, of the silvery species, had been seen.

On the 20th, after divine service, I took the opportunity of Captain Lyon and his people being on board the *Fury*, to communicate to the assembled officers and ships'

companies my intentions respecting the future movements of the Expedition; at the same time requesting Captain Lyon to furnish me with a list of any of the Hecla's men that might volunteer to remain out, as it would be necessary to fill up, or perhaps even to increase, the complement of the Fury.

Our preparations were, therefore, immediately commenced, a twelve months' provision and other stores being received by the Fury, and various necessary exchanges made in anchors, cables, and boats; and in the course of a single fortnight, the whole of these were transported from ship to ship without any exposure or labour to the men outside their respective ships, our invaluable dogs having performed it for us with astonishing ease and expedition. It was a curious sight to watch these useful animals walking off with a bower-anchor, a boat, or a topmast, without any difficulty; and it may give some idea of what they are able to perform, to state, that nine dogs of Captain Lyon's dragged sixteen hundred and

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eleven pounds, a distance of seventeen hundred and fifty yards in nine minutes, and that they worked in a similar way between the ships for seven or eight hours a day. The road was, however, very good at this time, and the dogs the best that could be procured.

The wind settling to the southward for a few days near the end of April, brought an increased, and, to us, a comfortable degree of warmth; and it was considered an event of some interest, that the snow, which fell on the 29th, dissolved as it lay on our decks, being the first time that it had done so this season. We now also ventured to take off some of the hatches for an hour or two in the day, and to admit some fresh air, a luxury which we had not known for six months. The Esquimaux, about this time, began to separate more than before, according to their usual custom in the spring; some of them, and especially our Winter Island acquaintance, setting off to the little islands called Ooglit, and those in our neighbourhood removing to the north-east end of

Igloolik, to a peninsula called *Keiyuk-tar-ruoke*, to which the open water was somewhat nearer. These people now became so much incommoded by the melting of their snow huts, that they were obliged to substitute skins as the roofs, retaining, however, the sides and part of the passages of the original habitations. These demitents were miserable enough while in this state, some of the snow continually falling in, and the floor being constantly wet by its thawing.

Some of our gentlemen, on going out on the 19th to Arlagnuk, where a part of the Esquimaux still remained, found that the open water had now approached the shore there within three-quarters of a mile, and that the ducks were more numerous than before. They succeeded in killing some of these, and *Ooyarraseo*, who proved a most active, intelligent, and obliging young man, immediately carried down his canoe to try to pick them up, but without success, the swell being so considerable at the margin of the ice that, though he managed to

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launch her, he could not steady her sufficiently to get into the hole. He explained at the same time, that in such cases, and when very desirous of getting out, they sometimes lash two canoes together, to give the requisite stability. Some long-tailed ducks were noticed by the Esquimaux on the 21st, at which time some silvery gulls were more frequently seen than before, but they were not numerous. On the 22d the Esquimaux observed, for the first time this season, the tracks of two deer; and the snow-buntings, which are usually some of the earliest visitants to these regions in the spring, began now to appear in flocks; but it was seldom that a stray bird of any kind was to be seen in the neighbourhood of the ships.

On the 26th, Captain Lyon went out on his sledge to Arlagnuk, and succeeded in killing fourteen pair of king-ducks, a part of which only the Esquimaux, who picked them up in their canoes, thought proper to return, secreting the rest for their own use. Finding that nothing but a boat was want-

ing to ensure us a supply of ducks from time to time, we now sent a party with an officer, and our small boats from each ship, these being carried on sledges to Arlagnuk, where our shooting parties were established close to the open water, which extended from thence to the south-eastward, as far as the eye could reach.

Favourable as the first part of the month of May had appeared, with respect to temperature, its close was by no means equally promising, and on the 1st of June, at two A.M., the thermometer stood at $+8^{\circ}$. This unusually low temperature, much exceeding in severity any thing we had experienced at Melville Island at the same season, rendered it necessary to defer for a time a journey which it was proposed that Captain Lyon should undertake, across the land to the westward at the head of Quilliam Creek, and thence, by means of the ice, along the shores of the Polar Sea, in the direction towards Akkoolee. The object of this journey, like that of most of the others which had been performed in

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various directions, was to acquire all the information within our reach, of those parts of the continental coast to which the ships were denied access; and it was hoped, that at the coming season some judgment might be formed of the probable state of the ice along that shore in the summer, by which the future movements of the *Fury* might be influenced. Captain Lyon was to be accompanied by two men, and a complete supply of every kind for a month's travelling was to be drawn on a sledge by ten excellent dogs, which he had taken great pains to procure and train for such occasions. As I was desirous of ascertaining, beyond any doubt, the identity of the *Khemig*, to which I had sailed in the autumn, with that seen by Captain Lyon on his journey with the Esquimaux, I determined to accompany the travellers on my sledge as far as the head of Quilliam Creek, and by victualling them thus far on their journey, enable them to gain a day or two's resources in advance. Another object which I had in view was to endeavour to find a

lake mentioned by Toolemak; who assured me that if I could dig holes in the ice, which was five feet thick, plenty of large salmon might be caught with hooks, an experiment which seemed at least well worth the trying.

Our first shooting parties, being relieved on the 5th, brought with them a hundred and twenty ducks, which, as well as all other game that might be procured this season except venison, I directed to be served as an extra allowance to the officers and men. These proved the more acceptable in consequence of our usual supply of the hearts, livers, and kidneys of the walrus having lately failed, the Esquimaux having little or none to spare. So accustomed had we been, indeed, to this supply, that the sudden failure of it was esteemed a greater loss than we could have supposed possible a twelvemonth before.

On the 7th, the weather being more favourable than before, Captain Lyon and myself set out to the westward at half-past eleven A.M., and the ice proving level,

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reached Khemig at half-past five; when it was satisfactory to find that the route followed by Captain Lyon on his journey with Toolemak, was precisely that which I had supposed, every feature of the land, of which the fog had before scarcely allowed him a glimpse, being now easily recognised and every difficulty cleared up. Continuing our journey among the Coxe Islands till seven o'clock, we landed upon one of them, and were not sorry to find abundance of water on every rock, though on the loose soil of the land about the ships, none had yet appeared. Proceeding at eight A.M. on the 8th, we soon met with numerous tracks of deer upon the ice, which, together with the seals that lay in great numbers near their holes, expedited our journey very considerably, the dogs frequently setting off at full gallop on sniffing one of them. Landing at the head of Quilliam Creek at half-past one, we took up an advantageous position for looking about us, in order to determine on the direction of Captain Lyon's route over land, which all the

Esquimaux concurred in representing as a laborious one. The land is here almost entirely high, a range of lofty hills stretching in a north-west and south-east direction at the back of the creek, and intercepting the view to the westward. Much of this rugged land had now lost its snow, and the only route that seemed practicable for a sledge was in about a S.b.E. direction at the foot of the hills, which appeared, afterwards, to take a more westerly turn. We met with several rein-deer immediately on our landing; and while in pursuit of them Captain Lyon discovered a lake two or three miles long and a quarter of a mile broad, a short distance from the tents, which we concluded to be that of which I was in search. As some of our party were suffering from snow-blindness, and, what is scarcely less painful, severe inflammation of the whole face, occasioned by the heat of the sun, we remained here for the rest of this day to make our final arrangements.

At nine A.M. on the 9th we struck the tents, and Captain Lyon set off to the

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southward, while we drove over to the lake, which is one mile N.N.W. of the head of the creek, and after three or four hours' labour completed a hole through the ice, which was very dark-coloured, brittle, and transparent, and, as Toolemak had said, about five feet thick. The water, which was eleven fathoms deep, flowed up within a couple of inches of the surface, over which lay a covering of snow eighteen inches in depth. In confident hope of now obtaining some fish, we proceeded exactly according to Toolemak's instructions; but, after four-and-twenty hours' trial at all depths, not even a single nibble rewarded our labour; so that, after obtaining observations, which gave the latitude of the head of the creek $69^{\circ} 32' 20''$, and its longitude $1^{\circ} 33' 14''$ W. of the Fury, we set off on our return down the creek on the 10th.

Coasting the south shore, on which I wished to obtain observations and angles for the survey, we the next day entered a small bay where we pitched our tent; our

whole party being so snow-blind with endeavouring to distinguish the land from the ice, (so entirely were both covered with snow,) that we could literally no longer muster one eye among three of us to direct the sledge. I found a handkerchief tied close, but not too tightly, round the eyes for a whole night, to be a more effectual remedy for this disagreeable complaint than any application of eye-water; and my companions being induced to try the same experiment, derived equal benefit from it. The 12th proved so inclement a day, with hard gales from the N.W. and N.E., and continued snow and drift, that no observations could be obtained, and we were glad to keep within the shelter of the tent. On the following day, after waiting for observations, which gave the lat. $69^{\circ} 18' 33''$, and the long. $31^{\circ} 36''$ W. of the Fury, we set off for Arlagnuk, where I wished to visit our shooting parties. A bay on the south shore, subsequently named after Mr. Mogg, of the Hecla, was reserved for future examination, it being impossible to

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distinguish the coast line till the snow was more cleared from the land; this was, in fact, much less the case at this period than it had been during the second week in May. Reaching Arlagnuk towards evening, we found that our parties had each thirty or forty ducks ready for the ships; and that the Esquimaux had lately altogether deserted this station, owing to the scarcity of walruses, and had removed to Ooglit, where these animals were said to be abundant at this season. Leaving our people on the morning of the 14th, I returned on board soon after noon, where I found that nothing worthy of particular notice had occurred during my absence. The latitude of our tents at Arlagnuk, which was one mile to the southward of the point more properly so called, was, by the mean of several observations by Mr. Ross, $69^{\circ} 11' 33''$, and I found it, by chronometer, $23' 09''$ east of the Fury's winter station. This shore, the whole way along the south coast of Hooper Inlet, from the head of Quilliam Creek, is composed nearly of

the same loose limestone formation as that of Igloodik.

On the 20th three or four other Esquimaux, strangers to us, arrived at Igloodik from the northward, and we found from two young men who visited us on the following day, that they came from *Too-nōonek*, a place undoubtedly situated somewhere on the western coast of Baffin's Bay, or about some of the inlets communicating with it, as they had there seen several *Kab-loona* ships employed in killing whales. It is not improbable, from the various accounts of the direction and distance of Toonoonek, communicated by the Esquimaux through the usual medium of their charts, that the part of the sea-coast so named lies at no great distance from Pond's Bay, in lat. $72\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, which has lately become a common rendezvous of our Davis' Strait fishermen. Of this fact we had, in the course of the winter, received intimation from these people from time to time, and had even some reason to believe that our visit to the Esquimaux of the

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River Clyde in 1820 was known to them; but what most excited our interest at this time was the sledge brought by the new comers, the runners being composed of large single pieces of wood, one of them painted black over a lead-coloured priming, and the cross-bars consisting of heading-pieces of oak-buts, one flat board with a hinge-mark upon it, the upper end of a skid or small boat's davit, and others that had evidently and recently been procured from some ship. On one of the heading-pieces we distinguished the letter *Brea*—, showing that the cask had, according to the custom of the whalers, contained bread on the outward passage. The nature of all these materials led us to suppose that it must have been procured from some vessel wrecked or damaged on the coast; and this suspicion was on the following day confirmed by our obtaining information that, at a place called *Akkōōdneak*, a single day's journey beyond Toonoonek, two ships like ours had been driven on shore by the ice, and that the people had gone

away in boats equipped for the purpose, leaving one ship on her beam ends, and the other upright, in which situation the vessels were supposed still to remain.*

We observed on this occasion, as on our first arrival at Igloolik, that the new Esquimaux were obliged to have recourse to the others to interpret to them our meaning, which circumstance, as it still appeared to me, was to be attributed, as before, to our speaking a kind of broken Esquimaux that habit had rendered familiar to our old acquaintance, rather than to any essential difference in the true languages of the two people.

Toolemak, having, some time before, promised to accompany me to the fishing-place, taking with him his wife, together with his sledge, dogs, and tent, made his appearance from Ooglit on the 23d, bringing, however, only the old lady and abundance of meat. Having lent him a tent

* We have since heard that these ships were the *Dexterity*, of Leith, and the *Aurora*, of Hull, which were wrecked on the 28th of August, 1821, about the latitude of 72°.

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and two of our dogs, and hired others to complete his establishment, we set out together at five A.M. on the 24th, my own party consisting of Mr. Crozier and a seaman from each ship. Arriving at Khemig towards noon, we found among the islands that the ice was quite covered with water, owing probably to the radiation of heat from the rocks. The weather proved indeed intensely hot this day, the thermometer in the shade, at the ships, being as high as 51° , and the land in this neighbourhood preventing the access of wind from any quarter. The travelling being good beyond this, we arrived within four or five miles of the head of Quilliam Creek at ten P.M., where we pitched the tents for the night. In this day's journey ten dogs had drawn my sledge a distance of forty statute miles since the morning, the weight on the sledge being about twelve hundred pounds, and half of the road very indifferent. It is the custom of the Esquimaux, even when meat is most abundant, to feed these invaluable animals only once a day, and that

in the evening, which they consider to agree with them better than more frequent meals; we always observed the same practice with ours, and found that they performed their journeys the better for it.

We saw, in the course of the day, a few deer, numerous king and long-tailed ducks, and red-throated divers; also some geese, then new to us, and which, on procuring a specimen a day or two after, proved to be the snow-goose (*anas hyperborea*). These last are fond of feeding on the wet grass and moss on the banks of the numerous streams and lakes in this country. They were seen at Arlagnuk, and by Captain Lyon on his journey, about the same time, so that the period of their arrival in this latitude seems to have been very well marked.

On the morning of the 25th, while passing close to a point of land, Toolemak suddenly stopped his sledge, and he and his wife walked to the shore, whither I immediately followed them. The old woman, preceding her husband, went up to a circle

of stones, of which there were two or three on the spot, and kneeling down within it, cried most loudly and bitterly for the space of two or three minutes, while Toolemak also shed abundant tears, but without any loud lamentation. On inquiring presently after, I found that this was the spot on which their tent had been pitched in the summer, and that the bed-place, on which the old woman knelt, had been that of their adopted son *Noogloo*, whose premature death we had all so much regretted. The grief displayed on this occasion seemed to have much sincerity in it, and there was something extremely touching in this quiet but unaffected tribute of sorrow on the spot, which so forcibly reminded them of the object of their parental affection. I have much gratification in adding, in this place, another circumstance, which, though trifling in itself, deserves to be noticed as doing honour to these people's hearts. They had always shown particular attachment to a dog they had sold me, and which bore the same name as a young man, a son

of their own, whom they had formerly lost. In the course of this journey, the old woman would constantly call the dog "Eer-ninga" (son), which the affectionate animal never failed to repay by jumping up and licking her face all over, whenever his trace would allow him; and at night, after Toolemak had fed his own dogs, he frequently brought to our tent an extra piece of meat, expressly for *Annōwtalik*, to whom these poor people seemed to take a mournful pleasure in now transferring their affection.

Landing close to the head of the inlet on the south shore, we proceeded with difficulty a couple of miles over land, till we came to a river, the limits of which the warmth of the weather was just rendering discernible, and which our guides informed us was to be our fishing-place. It was interesting to observe that, in every case of doubt as to the situation of a place, the best route, or the most advisable method of overcoming any difficulty, Toolemak invariably referred to his wife; and a consulta-

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tion of some minutes was held by these two before they would determine on what was to be done, or even return an answer to our questions respecting it. Pitching our tents upon the banks of the river, we went upon the ice, which was still quite solid except close to the shores, and soon made two or three holes for a hook and line, the thickness of the ice in the middle being from six to seven feet. The Esquimaux fish-hook is generally composed of a piece of ivory, having a hook of pointed iron, without a barb, let into it. The ivory they consider useful in attracting the salmon, but they also bait the hook with a piece of blubber well cleared of its oil by chewing, and securely tied on with a thread of sinew, so as to cover nearly the whole of the hook. A small piece of bone, rein-deer's horn, or wood, serves as a rod, and with this they keep the bait constantly in motion up and down, the bait being from one to three feet below the lower surface of the ice. Previously, however, to commencing the fishery, the old lady, who took the principal

part in this employment, muttered some words, to me altogether incomprehensible, over the hole, to which Toolemak, in a formal manner, added something about fish and *Kabloonas*; and the whole of this preparatory ceremony seemed intended to propitiate the spirit, to whose department the salmon particularly belonged. The lady (for it seems she is a female) did not, however, appear to lend a very favourable ear to our wants or Toolemak's rhetoric, for after many hours' patient trial on this and the following day, only two fish were seen and one caught, to repay our labour.

On the 27th Toolemak and his wife went over to a small shallow lake, on the opposite side of the river, where they caught three or four fish of the salmon kind, but none more than one pound in weight. He then came back to the tent, and made a small spear according to their own fashion; but with this, to his great disappointment, he could not strike a single fish. A sort of *fish-gig*, which we made out of four large hooks lashed back to back at the end of a

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light staff, succeeded much better, the bait being played in the usual manner to attract the fish, which were then hooked up with great ease and certainty by this instrument. In this manner we soon caught a dozen of the same kind as before; and the rest of our party had in the mean time killed a deer.

Toolemak began now to be extremely impatient to return home, his principal anxiety arising, I believe, from a childish desire to know what I should give him for his trouble; and when, in writing a note to Lieutenant Nias, I enumerated the articles I intended to present to him, he expressed more delight than I had ever before seen escape him. Among these was one of the rifle-guns supplied as presents, together with a sufficient quantity of ammunition to last him one summer, after which the gun would probably become useless itself for want of cleaning. It was astonishing to see the readiness with which these people learned to fire at a mark, and the tact they displayed in every thing relating to this art.

Boys from twelve to sixteen years of age would fire a fowling-piece, for the first time, with perfect steadiness; and the men, with very little practice, would very soon become superior marksmen.* As, however, the advantage they could derive from the use of fire-arms must be of very short duration, and the danger to any careless individuals very considerable, we did not on any other occasion consider it prudent to furnish them in this manner.

On the morning of the 28th, Toolemak left us for the ships, carrying with him our venison to be left there, and having first explained when and where the Esquimaux catch the fish with which he had supplied

* A fine lad, of about sixteen, being one day out in a boat with one of our gentlemen at Arlagnuk, reminded him, with a serious face, that he had laid a gun down *full-cocked*. There happened to be no charge in the gun at the time; but this was a proof of the attention the boy had paid to the art of using fire-arms, as well as an instance of considerate and manly caution, scarcely to have been expected in an individual of that age.

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us the preceding summer; for it now appeared that they were not found in great abundance, or of that magnitude, in the river, but at the mouth of a very small stream about two miles lower down the creek on the same side. Their method is, to place in the bed of the stream, which is quite narrow and seldom or never so deep as a man's middle though running with great force, two or three separate piles of stones, which serve the double purpose of keeping off the force of the stream from themselves, and of narrowing the passage through which the fish have to pass in coming up from the sea to feed; thus giving the people an opportunity of striking them with their spears, and throwing them on shore without much difficulty. We at first supposed that the salmon ascended the stream into lakes above for the purpose of spawning; but this could not here be the case, as the water became much too shallow for this at less than a hundred yards from the sea. Our fishermen afterwards found that they never went up a quarter of

that distance, merely playing about the entrance to pick up their food, which was found to consist of a very small fish abundant at the mouth of the stream. The latter are probably, therefore, brought down by the streams at this season from the lakes above, and occasion the salmon to resort to the spots in which, it seems, they are annually found by the Esquimaux. With respect to their spawning, it does not appear necessary for them to ascend any streams for that purpose, if abundance of fresh water be all that is requisite for it; as the water of the creek was not merely drinkable, but perfectly fresh almost down to its entrance.

After Toolemak's departure we remained two or three days longer, but only succeeded in killing one more deer and three or four dozen fish of the same kind and size as before. The whole country had by this time become almost deluged with water, innumerable ponds and streams appearing on every side, as if all at once let loose by magic; so rapid had been the change during

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a single week of fair and temperate weather! The ice on the deep lakes was from five to seven feet in thickness, and bade fair not to be entirely dissolved during the summer; that on the shallow ones was already very thin, and rapidly decaying.

The river we were now leaving, and which I named after my companion MR. CROZIER, was about three hundred yards in breadth abreast of our tents; but this part afterwards proved only a small branch of it, the main stream coming from the south-eastward along the foot of the hills which Captain Lyon was endeavouring to pass; and indeed, as we had every reason subsequently to believe, being the very route he had pursued, though it was then so completely covered with snow in most parts as to allow the ice to be distinguished only in a few places. The rocks in this neighbourhood are principally composed of a reddish granite, but gneiss also frequently appears among them. The sides of many of these are quite precipitous, in which case water, either in a stream or a lake, is gene-

rally found at their base. There is, however, between the hills abundant vegetation, affording excellent feeding for the deer, which were at this time very scarce here. The lakes and ponds are the resort of numerous ducks of the king and long-tailed species, and a few red-throated divers. We saw also some brent and snow-geese, and Mr. Crozier obtained a single specimen of the latter. A bird like a crane, standing three or four feet high, and with very long legs, fairly outran our party in a long chase, and then with difficulty rose on the wing. We supposed this to have been the *ardea canadiensis*, one of which species was killed by Captain Lyon on his journey back to the ships.

20-7 On the afternoon of the 1st of July we shifted our tents over-land, and down the creek as far as the salmon stream. In performing this short journey over bare ground, I was enabled to form some conception of the difficulties likely to be encountered by Captain Lyon and his companions; for even with our light load the dogs could scarcely

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one week had made upon the ice it is quite impossible to conceive, the whole surface being now chequered with large and deep pools of water, where not a symptom of thawing had before appeared. This continued the whole way to the ships, which we reached at eight P.M., finding Captain Lyon and his party returned, after a laborious but unsuccessful endeavour to penetrate over-land to the westward.

Had it not been for our preceding year's experience in this neighbourhood, the present appearance of the ice, and the rapid progress which it seemed to be daily making towards dissolution, would have flattered us with hopes of an early release, which, as we now too well know, must have ended in disappointment. The space we had covered with sand, and which was now called the canal, was from a foot to eighteen inches deep, with water throughout its whole extent; and such was the benefit evidently to be derived from it, that could the same thing have been carried the whole way down to the open water, the first south-

easterly gale would probably have caused a total disruption, and at once liberated the ships. As it was, there could be little doubt that it would still very considerably facilitate our escape, which, with this assistance, it was reasonable to hope might yet be effected before the conclusion of the month of July, though we had still six miles of ice interposed between us and the open water.

Our shooting parties to the southward had of late been tolerably successful, not less than two hundred and thirty ducks having been sent into the ships in the course of the last week. Mr. Ross had procured a specimen of a gull having a black ring round its neck, and which, in its present plumage, we could not find described. This bird was alone when it was killed, but flying at no great distance from a flock of tern, which latter it somewhat resembles in size as well as in its red legs; but is on closer inspection easily distinguished by its beak and tail, as well as by

a beautiful tint of most delicate rose-colour on its breast.

The first continued rain that we had seen this season fell for several hours on the morning of the 2d, though a few drops had before been observed on the 15th and 29th of June. For the remainder of the month of July we experienced a great deal of rain and fog, with long southerly and easterly winds, and a high mean daily temperature.

On my arrival at the ships I found several new Esquimaux on board, who, to the number of twenty, had lately arrived from *Toonōōnee-rōōchiuk*, a place situated to the westward and northward of Igloolik, and somewhere upon the opposite coast of Cockburn Island. The distance to this place was stated by the Esquimaux to be from six to eight days journey, of which one only was occupied in crossing to the great northern inlet we had seen on this side of Cockburn Island, and the rest in travelling over-land to a corresponding inlet of the sea on the other. This party confirmed the former account respecting the

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two ships that had been forced on shore ; and, indeed, as an earnest of its truth, one man named *Adloo*, who was said to have actually seen them in this state, was a day or two afterwards met by our people at *Arlagnuk*, while travelling to the southward, and having on his sledge a great deal of wood of the same kind as that before described.

This information having excited considerable interest, Lieutenant Hoppner, who had taken great pains to ascertain the facts correctly, volunteered his services to accompany some of the *Esquimaux*, who were said to be going northwards very shortly, and to obtain every information on this and other subjects which might lie within the scope of such a journey. Although I was not sanguine as to his principal object of reaching one or more of the *Esquimaux* stations on the northern shores of *Cockburn Island*, with guides so uncertain and capricious, yet I could not but consider the attempt as likely to produce something of interest ; more especially as

we had never been able to approach, in the ships, those parts of the coast which would constitute their first or second day's journey. I therefore directed Lieutenant Hoppner to proceed on this service accompanied by three men, and four of the Hecla's best dogs, to assist in carrying the baggage. On the night of the 4th, having heard that a party of the Esquimaux intended setting out the following morning, Lieutenant Hoppner and his people went out to their tents to be in readiness to accompany them. We were surprised to find, the next day, that not only Lieutenant Hoppner's intended guide, but the whole of the rest of these people, had altogether left the island, and, as it afterwards proved, permanently for the summer. We were now, therefore, for the first time since our arrival here, entirely deserted by the natives, only two or three of whom again visited the ships during the remainder of our stay. It appears probable, indeed, that these wandering people are in the habit of residing at their various stations only at particular intervals of time,

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perhaps with the intention of not scaring the walruses and seals too much by a very long residence at one time upon the same spot. What made this appear still more likely was the present state of their winter habitations at Igloolik, which, though offensive enough at about the same time the preceding year, were then wholesome and comfortable in comparison. Besides quantities of putrid walrus flesh, blubber, and oil, carcasses of dogs, and even of human beings, recently deceased, were now to be seen exposed in their neighbourhood. What remained of the corpse of *Keimōōseuk* was of course wholly uncovered; a second, of a child, on which the wolves had feasted, was also lying about; and a third, of a newly born infant, was discovered in the middle of a small lake by Mr. Richards, who caused them all to be buried under ground. All this seemed to indicate, that the Esquimaux had not occupied the bone huts for at least one winter previous to our arrival, though Igloolik certainly appears to be one of their principal rendezvous, forming, as it

were, a sort of central link in the very extensive chain of these people's peregrinations.

On the 6th we despatched a party of four men, under Messrs. Crozier and Bird, to the fishing station at Quilliam Creek, equipping them with a trawl-net, and every other requisite for obtaining a supply of salmon for the ships. Soon after, Captain Lyon, who was desirous of occupying a few days in shooting in that neighbourhood, also set off in the same direction, taking with him a small skin-boat, which he had constructed for the use of our fishermen, and which proved of great service in shooting the net across the mouth of the stream.

Our stock of meat for the dogs being nearly expended, and no sea-horses having yet been seen near the shore, I sent Mr. Ross with a sledge to Tern Island on the 13th, in expectation of being supplied by the Esquimaux. Mr. Ross returned on the 14th without success, the whole of the natives having left the island after plunder-

ing the birds nests, as they had done the preceding year. The open water was at this time about a mile and a half short of the island, differing little, if any thing, from its position at the same season of the last year. The birds, now the most abundant here, besides tern, which were also numerous, were eider-ducks, of which immense flocks were flying about: and it is their eggs for which the Esquimaux principally visit the island.

Finding that our valuable dogs must be now wholly dependent on our own exertions in providing meat, a boat from each ship was carried down to the neighbourhood of the open water, and shortly afterwards two others, to endeavour to kill walruses for them. This was the more desirable from the probability of the Fury's passing her next winter where no natives were resident, and the consequent necessity of laying in our stock for that long and dreary season, during the present summer. Our people, therefore, pitched their tents near the old Esquimaux habitations; and thus

were four boats constantly employed whenever the weather would permit, for the three succeeding weeks.

On the 16th Lieutenant Hoppner and his party returned to the ships, having only been enabled to travel to the south shore of Cockburn Island, on account of their guides not yet proceeding any farther. Two of the Esquimaux accompanied our travellers back to Igloolik, and, being loaded with various useful presents from the ships, returned home the following day. He had given the name of MURRAY MAXWELL to an inlet observed by him on that coast.

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CHAPTER XV.

Extraordinary disruption of ice in Quilliam Creek

—Some appearance of scurvy among the seamen and marines—Discovery of Gifford River

—Commence cutting the ice outside the ships to release them from their winter-quarters—

Considerations respecting the return of the Expedition to England—Unfavourable state of the ice at the eastern entrance of the strait—

Proceed to the southward—Ships beset and drifted up Lyon Inlet—Decease of Mr. George Fife—

Final release from the ice, and arrival in England—Remarks upon the practicability of a North-West Passage.

AMONG the various changes which the warmth of the returning summer was now producing around us, none was more remarkable than that noticed by Captain Lyon on his present excursion to Quilliam

Creek, and which, in a note received from him by the return of the sledges, on the 17th, he thus describes:—"Between the two points forming the entrance of the creek, we saw a high wall of ice extending immediately across from land to land, and on arriving at it found, that, by some extraordinary convulsion, the floe had burst upwards, and that immense masses of ice had been thrown in every direction. Several blocks, eight or nine feet in thickness, and many yards in diameter, were lying on the level solid floe; yet we were for some time at a loss to discover whence they had been ejected, till at length we found a hole or pool, which appeared so small as to be hardly capable of containing the immense fragments near it; yet from this place alone must they have been thrown."

Captain Lyon subsequently added, that "the water, which was found to be quite fresh, was running rapidly to seaward in this opening; and it seemed probable that the vast accumulation from the streams at the head of the creek, although at about

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ten miles distance, had burst a passage, and thus ejected the ice. The force employed for this purpose may be conceived, when I mention, that, of several masses of ice, one in particular was above eight feet thick, full forty yards in circumference, and lay more than five hundred yards from the pool. No traces could be found of the manner in which these bodies had been transported, as not a single small fragment was seen lying about, to warrant the supposition that they had fallen with a shock. Neither were there any marks observable on the smooth uncracked floe to cause a suspicion that they had slidden over it, the general appearance of the floe, at this place, being the same as at all other parts of the inlet, and bearing no marks of having had any rush of water over it."

The ducks having now nearly deserted the neighbourhood of Arlagnuk, and the travelling there becoming inconvenient for sledges, our shooting-party was removed to Igloodik, and shortly after recalled on board. The number of ducks procured by both

ships, during this part of the season, was about nine hundred, of which above two-thirds were king-ducks, and by far the greater part of the rest, of the long-tailed species. The weather was now, at times, extremely sultry, bringing out swarms of mosquitoes, that soon became very troublesome, even on board the ships. A thermometer suspended in the middle of the observatory, and exposed to the sun's rays, was observed by Mr. Fisher to stand at 92° at five P.M. on the 18th.

On the 19th Captain Lyon returned from Quilliam Creek, bringing with him the whole of our party stationed there, the ice being now so broken up in that neighbourhood as to render the fishing dangerous without proper boats. On this journey, which it took two days to perform, eleven dogs drew a weight of two thousand and fifty pounds, of which six hundred and forty were salmon, and ninety-five venison, procured by our people. The fish had all been caught in the trawl; and treble the quantity might easily have been taken with

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a seine, had we known how wide the mouth of the stream was to become. They varied in length from twenty to twenty-six inches, and one of the largest, when cleaned, weighed eight pounds and a half; but their average weight in this state did not exceed two pounds and a quarter. The distance of the fishing-place from the ships, the dangerous state of the ice, and the soreness of the dogs feet from travelling on the rough honey-combed ice, prevented our taking any further advantage of this very acceptable change of diet.

Although the dissolution of the ice was hourly going on, yet no very sensible alteration had taken place for some time past, such as might give us hopes of a speedy release from our confinement. The barrier of ice still remaining fixed between the ships and the sea was above five miles in breadth, though we lay at the very mouth of the bay, and the only chance of our soon getting out rested on an accidental crack in the floe, extending from near the point of Oongalooyat across to the main land, and

which had lately become somewhat wider. Being thus detained, I determined on despatching Lieutenant Hoppner once more to the northward, for the purpose of examining a great bay or inlet of Cockburn Island, that we had never been able to approach in the ships, and which we supposed to correspond with that delineated by the Esquimaux in their charts, as forming the first day's journey to Toonoonee-roochiuk. Lieutenant Hoppner accordingly left us on the 21st with that intention, being accompanied by two men, and furnished with a sledge and ten dogs.

Nothing worthy of notice occurred till the 29th, when a patch of ice, a mile broad, separated from the outer margin of our barrier, and drifted away. The canal formed, by laying sand on the ice, was now quite through in most places, showing that the plan would, in this latitude at least, always ensure a ship's escape at an earlier season than by the regular course of nature, provided it could be carried the whole way down to the open water.

I am now under the disagreeable necessity of entering on a subject, which I had, at one time, ventured to hope need scarcely have occupied any part of this Narrative: I mean that of the scurvy, some slight, but unequivocal, symptoms of which disease were this day reported to me, by Mr. Edwards, to have appeared among four or five of the Fury's men, rendering it necessary, for the first time during the voyage, to have recourse to anti-scorbutic treatment among the seamen and marines. During our first winter, the only instance in which any such symptoms had been discovered, occurred in Mr. Jermain, the purser of the Hecla, who, however, recovered by the usual treatment, as the summer advanced. This short and dubious season being ended, the carpenter and boatswain of the Hecla were also affected; and in the course of the second winter, Mr. Jermain's complaint returned with greater severity. In the months of February and March, Messrs. Henderson, Halse, and Scallon, of the Fury, were occasionally disposed to scurvy; Mr. Ed-

wards was for a week or two pretty severely attacked by it, and my own gums becoming somewhat livid, rendered a short course of additional lemon-juice necessary to restore them. These cases, however, shortly and permanently recovered; but in the spring, and even as late as the month of June, when there was reason to hope that every symptom of this kind would have been removed by the increased warmth and cheerfulness of the season, and the change of diet afforded by the game, the disease again made its appearance in the carpenter and boatswain of the Hecla, and soon after attacked the gunner and Mr. Fife, the Greenland master. These cases, which were much more severe than any we had before experienced, had not now recovered, when the gums of four or five of the Fury's men betrayed this insidious disease lurking within them, and made it necessary to administer lemon-juice to them in more copious quantities than ordinary.

It will perhaps be considered a curious and singular fact in the history of sea-

scurvy, that, during the whole of the preceding part of this voyage, none amongst us but officers should have been, in the slightest degree, affected by it, a circumstance directly contrary to former experience. To whatever causes this might be attributed, it could not however but be highly gratifying to be thus assured, that the various means employed to preserve the health of the seamen and marines had proved even beyond expectation efficacious.

That a ship's company should begin to evince symptoms of scurvy after twenty-seven months entire dependence upon the resources contained within their ship, (an experiment hitherto unknown, perhaps, in the annals of navigation, even for one-fourth part of that period,) could scarcely indeed be a subject of wonder, though it was at this particular time a matter of very sincere regret. From the health enjoyed by our people during two successive winters, unassisted as we had been by any supply of *fresh* anti-scorbutic plants, or other vegetables, I had begun to indulge a hope, that,

with a continued attention to their comforts, cleanliness, and exercise, the same degree of vigour might, humanly speaking, be ensured at least as long as our present liberal resources should last. Present appearances, however, seemed to indicate differently; for though our sick-list had scarcely a name upon it, and almost every individual was performing his accustomed duty, yet we had at length been impressed with the unpleasant conviction, that a strong predisposition to disease existed among us, and that no very powerful exciting cause was wanting to render it more seriously apparent. Such a conviction at the present crisis was peculiarly disagreeable; for I could not but lament any circumstance tending to weaken the confidence in our strength and resources at a time when more than ordinary exertion was about to be required at our hands.

In the afternoon of the 30th, Lieutenant Hoppner and his party returned on board, having discovered that the inlet in question communicated with a considerable river,

which we jointly named after our mutual and highly-esteemed friend MR. GIFFORD.

The first of August had now arrived; and yet, incredible as it may appear, the ships were as securely confined in the ice as in the middle of winter, except that a pool of water about twice their own length in diameter was now opened around them. I determined, therefore, notwithstanding the apparent hopelessness of sawing our way through four or five miles of ice, to begin that laborious process; not, indeed, with the hope of cutting a canal sufficiently large to allow the passage of the ships to sea, but with a view to weaken it so much as, in some measure, to assist its disruption whenever any swell should set in upon its margin. On this and the following day, therefore, all the gear was carried down for that purpose, and a large tent pitched for the ships' companies to dine in, the distance being too great to allow them to return on board to their meals. On the 3d, however, we were saved a great deal of unnecessary

labour, by the ice opening out at the crack before mentioned, so that our sawing might now be commenced within a mile of the Fury. After divine service, therefore, all hands were sent from both ships to bring back the tent and tools to the point of Oongalooyat, and the parties were recalled from the walrus-fishery, except a single boat's crew: these also returned on board a few days after, the whole number of sea-horses killed being eight, and one large seal. It is remarkable that all the walruses were males, of which a skeleton was made on board each ship as anatomical specimens. The Hecla's two boats had one day a very narrow escape in assaulting a herd of these animals; for several of them, being wounded, made so fierce an attack on the boats with their tusks, as to stave them in a number of places, by which one was immediately swamped, and the other much damaged. The Fury's boat being fortunately in sight, prevented any further danger; two of the walruses were killed and secured,

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and the damaged boats lightened and towed to the shore, from which they had been several miles distant.

On the 4th our sawing work was commenced, with the usual alacrity on the part of the officers and men, and three hundred and fifty yards of ice were got out before night, its thickness varying from one to four feet, but very irregular on account of the numerous pools and holes. An equal length was accomplished on the following day, though not without excessive fatigue and constant wet to the men, several of whom fell into the water by the ice breaking under them.

On the 5th, the register-thermometer, which had been placed in the ground in the winter, was taken up, though, to our astonishment, the ground above and about it had become nearly as hard and compactly frozen as when we dug the hole to put it down. How this came about we were quite at a loss to determine ; for the earth had been thrown in quite loosely, whereas its present consolidated state implied its



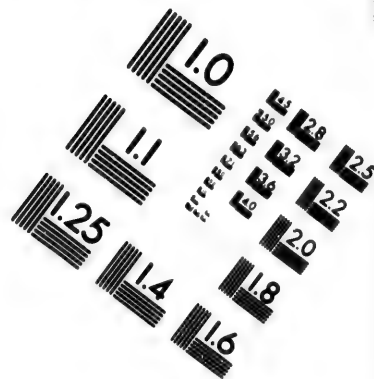
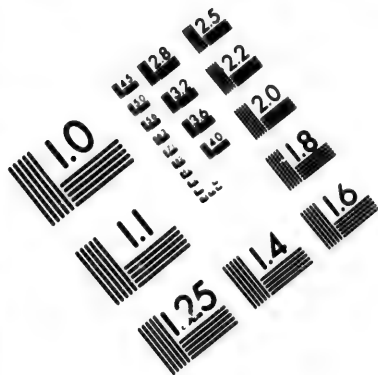
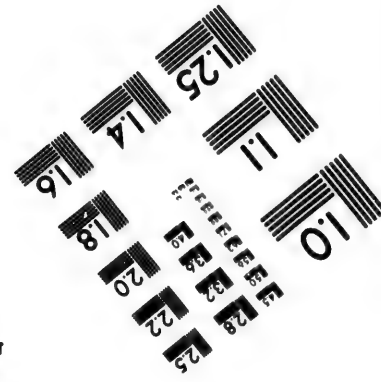
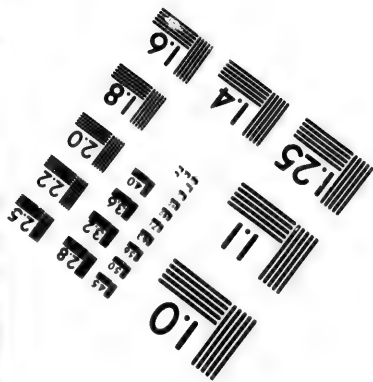
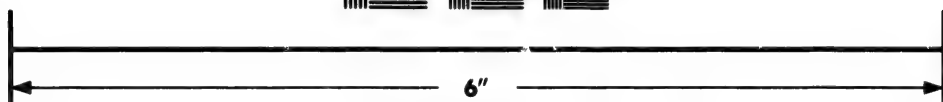
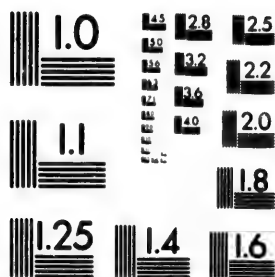


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having been thoroughly thawed and frozen again. It occupied two men ten days to extricate it, which, as they approached the thermometer, was done by a chisel and mallet, to avoid injury by jarring. This, however, was not sufficient to prevent mischief, the instrument being so identified with the frozen earth, as to render it impossible to strike the ground near it without communicating the shock to the tubes, two of which were in consequence found to be broken. Thus ended our experiment for ascertaining the temperature of the earth during the winter; an experiment which it would seem, from this attempt, scarcely practicable to make in any satisfactory manner without some apparatus constructed expressly for the purpose.

On the 6th the work was continued as before, and about four hundred yards of ice were sawn through and floated out, leaving now a broad canal, eleven hundred yards in length, leading from the open water towards that formed by the gravelled space. In the course of this day's work,

one of the seamen of the Hecla fell into the water by the ice giving way, and very narrowly escaped drowning, as it was not easy for the other people to approach him. He was taken out scarcely sensible; but being immediately conveyed on board the Fury was by care and attention recovered in a few hours.

When the lateness of the season to which the ships had now been detained in the ice is considered, with reference to the probability of the Fury's effecting any thing of importance during the short remainder of the present summer, it will not be wondered at that, coupling this consideration with that of the health of my officers and men, I began to entertain doubts whether it would still be prudent to adopt the intended measure of remaining out in the Fury as a single ship; whether, in short, under existing circumstances, the probable evil did not far outweigh the possible good. In order to assist my own judgment on this occasion upon one of the most material points, I requested the medical officers of the Fury to

furnish me with their opinions "as to the probable effect that a third winter passed in these regions would produce on the health of the officers, seamen, and marines of that ship, taking into consideration every circumstance connected with our situation." Mr. Edwards's reply, with which in substance that of Mr. Skeock coincided, is here given, as being at once more concise as to expression, and of infinitely greater weight as to opinion, than any remarks I could myself have offered on this subject.

"During the last winter, and subsequently, the aspect of the crew of the *Fury* in general, together with the increased number and character of their complaints, strongly indicated that the peculiarity of the climate and service was slowly effecting a serious decay of their constitutional powers. The recent appearance also of several cases of incipient scurvy in the most favourable month of the year, and occurring after a more liberal and continued use of fresh animal food than we can calculate upon procuring hereafter, are

confirmatory proofs of the progression of the evil.

“ With a tolerable prospect of eventual success, other circumstances remaining unchanged, I should yet expect an increase of general debility, with a corresponding degree of sickness, though at the same time confident of our resources being equal to obviate serious consequences. But considering the matter in the other point of view, namely, as a single ship, it assumes a much more important shape. It is not necessary that I should dwell on the altered circumstances in which the crew would then be placed, as they are such as you must long ago have foreseen and weighed : I allude to the increase of labour and exposure resulting from the separation of the vessels, the privation of many salutary occupations, mental and corporeal, attending their union, and, I may add, at this late period of the season, the hopelessness of the success of the ensuing navigation being such as to excite feelings sufficiently lively to counteract those depressing causes. It is impossible,

in fact, to reflect on the subject and not to apprehend a less favourable result than might be expected under the preceding conditions."

Enclosing to Captain Lyon the replies of the medical gentlemen, I now also requested his opinion whether, under existing circumstances, he still considered it expedient to adopt the measure originally intended, with respect to the separation of the two ships. I had scarcely despatched a letter to this effect, when, at 10 A.M. on the 8th, the ice about the Fury began to move, the pools breaking up, and the gravelled canal soon entirely closing. A breeze springing up from the northward at this time, all sail was made upon the ship, and the ice gradually driving out as it detached itself from the shore, the Fury got into open water about one P.M. The Hecla, however, still remained in the middle of her winter's floe, which, though it moved a little with the rest at first, did not come out of the bay. In the course of the afternoon, finding her still stationary, I determined to occupy the

time in stretching over to the northward, for the purpose of examining the state of the fixed ice at the eastern mouth of the strait; and arriving at its margin by ten P.M., found it attached to both shores from the north-eastern part of Neerlo-naktoo across to Murray Maxwell Inlet. It was the general opinion that this ice was in a more solid state than at the same time and place the preceding year, but its situation did not, I believe, differ half a mile from what it had then been. As the sun went down nearly in the direction of the strait, we obtained from the mast-head a distinct and extensive view in that quarter, and it is impossible to conceive a more hopeless prospect than this now presented. One vast expanse of level solid ice occupied the whole extent of sea visible to the westward, and the eye wearied itself in vain to discover a single break upon its surface.

Having finished this examination, which at once destroyed every hope I had never ceased to indulge of a passage through the strait, we returned towards Igloolik to-re-

join the Hecla. It was not, however, till the morning of the 9th that we observed her to be moving out of the bay; when at length (for the first time perhaps that such an event ever occurred) she drove to sea in the middle of the floe. Thus at the mercy of the ice, she was carried over the shoals off the south-east point of Igloolik in six and a half fathoms, but was then fortunately drifted into deeper water. The swell on the outside was all that was wanting to break up her icy prison, which separating at seven A.M. finally released her from confinement.

Having soon afterwards received Captain Lyon's answer to my communication, it was necessary for me to come to a final determination on the subject therein alluded to. For various reasons, he advised that the Fury and Hecla should return to England together, as soon as such arrangements respecting the removal of stores and provisions, as I might judge proper to make, should be completed.

Under such circumstances, to which may

be added the uncertainty of the Hecla's liberation from the ice to the southward before the close of the season, I no longer considered it prudent or justifiable, upon the slender chance of eventual success now before us, to risk the safety of the officers and men committed to my charge, and whom it was now my first wish to re-conduct in good health to their country and their friends. Having communicated my intentions to the officers and ships' companies, I directed several additions to be made to their ordinary allowance of provisions, particularly in the various anti-scorbutics, which had hitherto been reserved for cases of emergency; and then beating up to our winter station, which, by desire of Mr. Fisher, our Chaplain and Astronomer, I named TURTON BAY, we anchored there in the afternoon in ten fathoms, and immediately commenced our preparations for lightening the Fury. Seven months' provisions, a bower anchor, and a few other stores, were received by the Hecla, some of her water, before filled as ballast, being

started to make room for them; and such other arrangements made as circumstances would permit for improving the stowage of the Fury's hold. The bay was now entirely clear of ice in every part; and so changed was its appearance in the course of the last four-and-twenty hours, that it was scarcely possible to believe it the same place that we had been accustomed daily to look upon for the ten preceding months.

The conveyance and stowage of the stores had scarcely been completed, when some loose ice drifting into the bay with the tide, on the night of the 10th, obliged us hastily to get under weigh and stand out. On the following morning I ran across to the mainland in the Fury, for the purpose of erecting, in compliance with my instructions, a flag-staff fifty-six feet in height, having at its top a ball, made of iron hoops and canvass, ten feet in diameter, and a cylinder buried near its foot, containing a parchment with some account of our visit to this place. In the mean time, I requested Captain Lyon to stand over to the point of Ig-

Igloolik, where our walruses had been landed, and to bring off these, as well as our boats and tents remaining there. The ice soon after coming in upon the point, it was not without risk of the Hecla's being dangerously beset, that Captain Lyon succeeded in bringing off every thing but one boat. This was indeed no great loss to us, though a great acquisition to the Esquimaux, for being almost worn out, I had intended to break her up previously to leaving the ice. Besides this, we purposely left our sledges, and a quantity of wood in pieces of a convenient size for bows, spears, and paddles, distributing them about in several places, that one or two individuals might not make a prize of the whole.

The Hecla rejoining us on the morning of the 12th, we stood out to the eastward, and finally took our departure from Igloolik. In the forenoon a thick fog came on, which, with a good deal of loose ice drifting about, gave us some trouble in clearing the land; after which, we made the Calthorpe Islands, the wind being

southerly with thick rainy weather. This continued till the following afternoon, when a change of wind soon brought a clearer atmosphere, enabling us to bear up for the main-land, which we made near the three islands called Ooglit, and then ran along it to the southward in a perfectly open sea. We saw here a great many walruses, but no animals of any other kind. In the course of the night the favourable breeze failed us, and, on the morning of the 14th, was succeeded by a southerly wind, the ships being close to another island called Ooglit, about twelve leagues to the S.S.W. of the others. We were here immediately visited by our old acquaintance the Esquimaux, several of whom came off in their canoes in the course of the morning, as if determined to lose no opportunity of profiting by us. Among these was our worthy old friend Nannow, to whom every body was glad to give something; and, indeed, they all received as many presents as their canoes could safely carry or tow on shore. Their tents, nine in number,

were pitched on the main-land, a little to the northward of Ooglit, at a station they call *Ag-wisse-ō-wik*, of which we had often heard them speak at Igloolik. They now also pointed out to us Amitioke, at the distance of four or five leagues to the southward and westward, which proved to be the same piece of low land that we had taken for it in first coming up this coast. The Esquimaux told us that a number of their younger men were inland in pursuit of deer, and that the rest had abundant supplies of walrus, which animals we saw in considerable numbers about this place.

The failure of the wind was not the only cause of our detention here; the ice, whose margin we had begun to perceive as we approached this part of the coast, now closing in completely with the land, so as to prevent the possibility of our making any farther progress for the present. The closeness of the main body of ice to the land at this time, compared with its position a month earlier the preceding year, was undoubtedly to be attributed to the

prevalence of southerly and easterly winds, which we had lately experienced, while those from the opposite quarter could alone drive it off the land. The ice was here very heavy, being covered with large hummocks, reminding us of what we had to encounter in coming up this coast. It was also covered in almost every part with sand and small stones, making its general aspect of a brownish colour, only a few patches of white ice appearing here and there. How these substances had been brought here in such abundance another year's experience of the phenomena of these seas had not taught us to explain; and before we left this coast, we saw many hundred square miles of ice thus covered. In all the intervals between the hummocks were large pools of water, which had in many instances formed deep circular beds, twenty or thirty feet in diameter, in shape like the crater of a volcano. Most of the pools had found their way through to the sea below, and the smallest swell would have broken every floe-piece into numberless masses:

indeed, as it was, there were few to be seen of more than three or four acres in extent.

Being thus detained, I despatched Mr. Ross to Ooglit to observe the meridian altitude, which gave the latitude of its south point $68^{\circ} 23' 58''$, and he found the mineralogical character exactly the same as that of Igloolik. About the middle of the island, which is quite low, are two bone winter huts, conspicuous at some distance to seaward. It was low water at half-past eleven A.M., making the time of high water here on full and change days a quarter past eleven.

We were now for some days all but beset in this neighbourhood, calms or light southerly and easterly breezes constantly prevailing. During this time the main body of ice remained, in most parts, close to the shore; leaving us only a "hole" of water to work about in, and much nearer to the land than on this shoal and shelving coast was altogether safe for the ships. Notwithstanding this, however, we had soon occasion to observe that they not only kept

their ground, but even drew to the southward, owing, no doubt, to the current before found to set in that direction along the coast.

On the morning of the 22d, being off Amitioke, the ice became more slack along the shore, and a breeze from the northward enabled us to make some progress. I may here take occasion to remark, that, in the course of this summer, we experienced not only an unusual proportion of southerly and easterly winds, but observed also that these were more frequently attended with clear weather than is generally the case; while, on the other hand, a great deal of close thick weather occurred, with breezes from the northern quarter. The present northerly wind had scarcely sprung up an hour before a thick fog came on, frequently obscuring the land from us as we ran along, at the distance of half a mile to a mile and a half. Thus circumstanced, the *Fury* was once in the course of the day placed in a very awkward situation, the water quickly shoaling to six fathoms, and the ice pre-

venting, for a time, the possibility of hauling out. Having at length gained an offing of a couple of miles, we were obliged to make the ships fast to a floe-piece, the ice entirely closing around us.

The ice remained close the whole of the 26th; but we continued as usual to drift generally to the southward, and the next morning, being off Owlitteeweek, were enabled to cast off and make sail, the ice being rather more open than before. Being favoured by a commanding northerly breeze, we ran a considerable distance to the southward, having, however, only just room to sail between the points of the closely packed ice and a flat dangerous shore. A few small low islands were here discovered and added to the chart. In the evening we were once more arrested in our progress and obliged to make fast, being two or three miles short of Point Elizabeth, and within three quarters of a mile of the shore. On the making of the flood-tide at night, the ships were hurried past the point in seven fathoms, and not having been able

to make fast to the same floe-piece were now separated a mile or two and soon again beset. Without escaping for a moment from our confined situation, and almost without perceiving any motion of the masses of ice among themselves, we had at noon on the 30th drifted down within a mile of a small island, lying near the north-east point of Winter Island, and which I now named after MR. CRAWFORD. On the 31st the tide took us through between these, the breadth of the passage being three quarters of a mile, in no less than sixteen fathoms water. We then passed within a dangerous reef of rocks, lying a full mile from the shore, and having numerous heavy masses of grounded ice upon it. After clearing this in a good depth of water, we were, by the evening, carried along shore within a mile of Cape Fisher. Being desirous of seeing whether the Esquimaux had meddled with the tombs of our departed ship-mates, I despatched a party on shore over the loose ice, and was glad to find on their return, which was not accomplished with-

out difficulty, that both were in good order. Among the specimens of plants which Mr. Ross brought on board were some radishes, onions, and mustard and cress, found at our gardens. The onions had a very pungent smell and taste, and the whole were in that healthy state which, however dwarfish their growth, would have rendered them very acceptable if more abundant. The Esquimaux had certainly visited the island since our departure, as several tin canisters, left for them on a particular spot, had been removed.

Thus had we, in a most singular manner, once more arrived at our old winter-quarters, with scarcely a single successful exertion on our parts towards effecting that object. The distance from Ooglit to our present station was about one hundred and sixty miles along the coast. Of this we had never *sailed* above forty, the rest of the distance having been accomplished, while we were immoveably beset, by mere drifting. The interval thus employed having been barely eight days, gives an average

drift to the southward of above fifteen miles per day.

At daylight, on the 1st of September, we found ourselves within three or four hundred yards of the rocks on the eastern side of Winter Island, the soundings having gradually decreased to eleven fathoms. Had it remained dark an hour longer, the Fury would in all probability have gone on shore; but happily the ice was slack enough to allow us to warp clear of danger soon after day-break. The Hecla had in the mean time been drifted round Cape Fisher, and several miles to the westward, towards Lyon Inlet, in which direction the Fury was also carried in the afternoon. The wind now setting in easterly, both ships drove with the ice up the inlet, and on the 4th were abreast of Safety Cove, though fortunately on the western side, clear of the dangers of the Bay of Shoals. A light breeze then springing up from the north-west, we again began to move down the inlet; and on the evening of the 6th, after making a little progress with the sails in the course of

the last two days, were once more met by an easterly breeze off Cape Edwards, the ice being still as closely packed as possible. The young ice also began at times to annoy us, by forming to a considerable thickness at night, so as to cement the larger masses strongly together. The weather now became chilly immediately after sunset, and we considered it rather a premature decrease of temperature in this latitude, when the thermometer was observed to fall to 24° on the morning of the 31st of August. A very unusual deposition of dew took place every evening about this season, immediately after the sun had set, and was in an hour or two converted into hoar frost.

In the afternoon of the 6th, I was much pained at being informed by telegraph from the Hecla, that Mr. Fife, Greenland Master of that ship, had just expired, an event which for some days past there had been but too much reason to apprehend; the scurvy having within the last three weeks continued to increase considerably upon him. It is proper for me, however, both

in justice to the medical officers under whose skilful and humane care he was placed, and to the means with which we were in this way so liberally supplied, to state, that during a part of that time Mr. Fife had taken so great a dislike to the various anti-scorbutics which were administered to him, that he could seldom be induced to use any of them. The disease, in consequence, reduced him to a state of extreme debility, which at length carried him off almost without pain. The Hecla being at the time closely beset, and in a situation of great danger among the shoals off Winter Island, Captain Lyon caused the remains of the deceased to be committed to the sea with all the solemnity which circumstances would permit. I cannot close this melancholy notice without expressing my most sincere regret, to which I may venture to add that of Captain Lyon and the other officers, for the loss of this very deserving individual, whose qualities as a seaman and navigator, had it pleased God to spare his life, would have rendered him an ornament

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to the naval service, into which he was to have been admitted as a master on the return of the ships to England. Mr. Crawford, the mate of the *Fury*, was appointed, for the present, to act as master of the *Hecla* in the room of Mr. Fife.

In the night of the 6th, the ships, which had before nearly closed each other, were again separated to the distance of several miles, though no motion was perceptible in the masses of ice about them. The *Hecla* was now carried towards Winter Island, and the *Fury* up Lyon Inlet, so that on the 10th, we had reached the islands off Five-hawser Bay, within three-quarters of a mile, where the *Hecla* was barely visible from the mast-head. On the evening of the 11th, however, the wind at length began to freshen from the north-west, when the ice immediately commenced driving down the inlet at the rate of a mile an hour, carrying the *Fury* with it, and within half a mile of the rocks, the whole way down to Cape Martineau, but keeping her in deep water. In the meantime the *Hecla*

had been swept into much more dangerous situations, passing along the east and south sides of Winter Island ; and after driving nearly up to Five-hawser Bay, being carried near some dangerous shoals about Cape Edwards, where Captain Lyon expected every other tide that she would take the ground. Indeed for the last ten or twelve days the situation of the Hecla had been one of imminent danger, and every exertion to remove her from it had proved unavailing. From this time, however, the ice continued to drive to the southward, and, by some means or other, the ships once more closed each other. It was now observable, as on a former occasion in this neighbourhood, that the ice did not carry the ships in the direction opposite to the wind, but much more towards Southampton Island ; so that on the 14th we were once more off Fife Rock, and had, by great exertions in warping, nearly rejoined the Hecla. We now also observed a dark water-sky to the eastward, which assured us that a clear sea could be at no great distance in that direc-

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tion. On the following day, when the ships had closed each other within a mile, we could see the clear water from the mast-head, and the Hecla could now have been easily extricated. Such, however, are the sudden changes that take place in this precarious navigation, that not long afterwards the Fury was quite at liberty to sail out of the ice, while the Hecla was now, in her turn, so immoveably fast set, and even cemented between several very heavy masses, that no power that could be applied was sufficient to move her an inch. In this situation she remained all the 16th, without our being able to afford her any assistance ; and the frost being now rather severe at night, we began to consider it not improbable that we might yet be detained for another winter. We were perhaps, indeed, indebted for our escape to a strong westerly breeze, which blew for several hours on the 17th, when, the ice being sufficiently close to allow our men to walk to the assistance of the Hecla, we succeeded, after seven

hours hard labour, in forcing her into clear water, when all sail was made to the eastward, and our course shaped for the Trinity Islands in a perfectly open sea.

We thus finally made our escape from the ice after having been almost immovably beset in it for twenty-four days out of the last twenty-six, in the course of which time the ships had been taken over no less than one hundred and forty leagues of ground, generally very close to the shore, and always unable to do any thing towards effecting their escape from danger. When it is considered, that, to have taken the ground in this situation, with strong high tides keeping the ice in constant motion, must have almost involved the certain loss of the ships, and without the possibility of one offering assistance to the other, we cannot but consider this as one of the most providential escapes it has ever been our lot to experience.

The wind still favouring us after our leaving the ice, we made the land near the

Trinity Islands on the evening of the 18th, and passed Salisbury Island the following day. Meeting with no obstruction whatever, we ran with a favourable breeze down Hudson's Strait, and at noon on the 23d had passed Button's Isles, from which we took our final departure. Icebergs of large dimensions occurred, from about the seventy-third degree of longitude downwards to the entrance of the strait, and we remarked, that below the sixty-third degree of latitude the land was still comparatively clear of snow.

A solan goose was seen on this and the preceding day, and these birds became more numerous as we approached the Orkneys, which we made on the morning of Oct. 9th, the wind being moderate from the southward. It can scarcely perhaps be imagined by those who have not been similarly situated, with what eager interest one or two vessels were this day descried by us, being the first trace of civilized man that we had seen for the space of seven and

twenty months. The breeze increasing to a fresh gale from the southward in the course of the night, with a heavy sea from the same quarter, rendering it impossible for us to make any progress in that direction, I determined to put into Lerwick in the Shetlands Islands, to procure refreshments, and await a change in our favour. We accordingly bore up for that harbour early on the morning of the 10th, and at thirty minutes past ten A.M. anchored there, where we were immediately visited by a great number of the inhabitants, anxious to greet us on our return to our native country.

I feel it utterly impossible adequately to express the kindness and attention we received for the three or four days that we were detained in Bressay Sound, by a continuance of unfavourable winds. On the first information of our arrival the bells of Lerwick were set ringing, the inhabitants flocked from every part of the country to express their joy at our unexpected return, and the town was at night illuminated, as if

each individual had a brother or a son among us. On the 12th, being Sunday, the officers and men of both ships attended divine service on shore, when the worthy minister, the Reverend Mr. Menzies,* who was before well known to many among us, offered up, in the most solemn and impressive manner, a thanksgiving for our safe return; at the same time calling upon us, with great earnestness, never to forget what we owed to Him who had been "about our path, and about our bed, and who spieth out all our ways." The peculiarity of the circumstances under which we had joined the congregation, the warmth of feeling exhibited by every person assembled within the sacred walls, together with the affectionate energy of the preacher, combined to produce an effect of which words can convey but little idea, but which will

* This faithful minister, and most estimable member of society, has since gone to receive the reward of his labours; but he will long live in our grateful remembrance.

not easily be effaced from the minds of those who were present on this affecting occasion.

On the 13th, a breeze springing up from the northward, we took leave of our kind and hospitable friends, deeply sensible of the cordial and affectionate reception we had experienced ; and being still favoured by the wind, were abreast of Buchaness the following evening. It was my intention to have put into Leith, in order to procure anchors and pilots previously to venturing upon the English coast, but the wind breaking us off on the morning of the 15th, prevented our approaching that part of the coast, and we continued our course to the southward. On the 16th, being off Whitby, I went on shore there, accompanied by Mr. Fisher, the astronomer, and after receiving the cordial greetings of a great number of the worthy inhabitants of Whitby, who had assembled to meet us on landing, set off for London, and arrived at the Admiralty on the morning of the 18th. The ships, after touching

at the Humber for pilots, arrived in the River Thames shortly afterwards, and were paid off at Deptford on the 14th of November.

END OF VOL. IV.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY C. ROWORTH, BELL YARD,
TEMPLE BAR.

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